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DOMINATION CONTINUES

India on the cusp of a series sweep

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NEARBY

'Study T.N. policy on RSS activities'

BENGALURU
After Minister Priyank Kharge sought a ban on RSS activities in government institutions and on public premises, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he had instructed the Chief Secretary to study measures by the Tamil Nadu government to restrict the activities of the outfit there. » PAGE 8

'DPR of tunnel road prepared in a hurry'

BENGALURU
In a blow to the ambitious Tunnel Road Project in Bengaluru, the expert committee has said that DPR had been prepared in a hurry, relying on only four soil test points for planning the tunnel, far 'too few' for a project of this scale.» PAGE 4

Gaza declaration inked as Hamas sets hostages free

Trump, leaders of Egypt, Qatar and Turkiye sign document meant to cement the ceasefire; Hamas releases last of the 20 surviving hostages and Israel hands over 1,968 mostly Palestinian prisoners

Agence France-Presse
SHARM EL SHEIKH

U.S. President Donald Trump hailed a "tremendous day for the Middle East [West Asia]" as he and regional leaders signed a declaration on Monday meant to cement a ceasefire in Gaza, hours after Israel and Hamas exchanged hostages and prisoners.

Arriving to a hero's welcome earlier in Israel, Mr. Trump had said, "This is a great day. This is a new beginning." Asked if the two-year Gaza war was over, he said: "Yes."

Mr. Trump sat down at a resort in Sharm el-Sheikh with more than two dozen world leaders to discuss the deal. The U.S. President along with leaders of Egypt, Qatar and Turkiye signed the declaration as guarantors to the Gaza deal.

Sweet relief: A released Israeli hostage, held in Gaza since the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas, with his mother; and (right) a freed Palestinian hugging a relative after his release from an Israeli jail. REUTERS

"The document is going to spell out rules and regulations and lots of other things," Mr. Trump said before signing, repeating twice that "it's going to hold up."

As part of Mr. Trump's plan to end the Gaza war, Hamas on Monday freed the last 20 surviving hostages it held after two years of captivity in Gaza. In exchange, Israel released 1,968 mostly Palestinian prisoners held in its jails.

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TRUMP'S SPEECH
» PAGE 16

SC orders CBI probe into stampede at Karur rally

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Describing the September 27 stampede in Tamil Nadu's Karur as one that "shook the national conscience", the Supreme Court on Monday ordered a probe by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). As many as 41 people died at a rally organised by the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) led by actor Vijay.

A Bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and N.V. Anjaria said the incident had "left an imprint in the minds of citizens across the country" and that the kin of the deceased had knocked on its "doors" seeking an "unbiased" probe. It formed a three-member panel, chaired by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ajay Rastogi, to supervise progress.

CONTINUED ON
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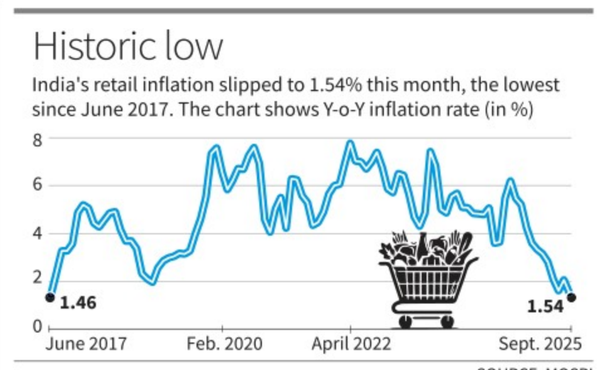


SOURCE: MOSPI

Retail inflation eases to 8-year low of 1.54%

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation fell to a more than eight-year-low of 1.54% in September on falling food and fuel prices, official data showed on Monday. This is once again below the Reserve Bank of India's lower comfort bound of 2%.

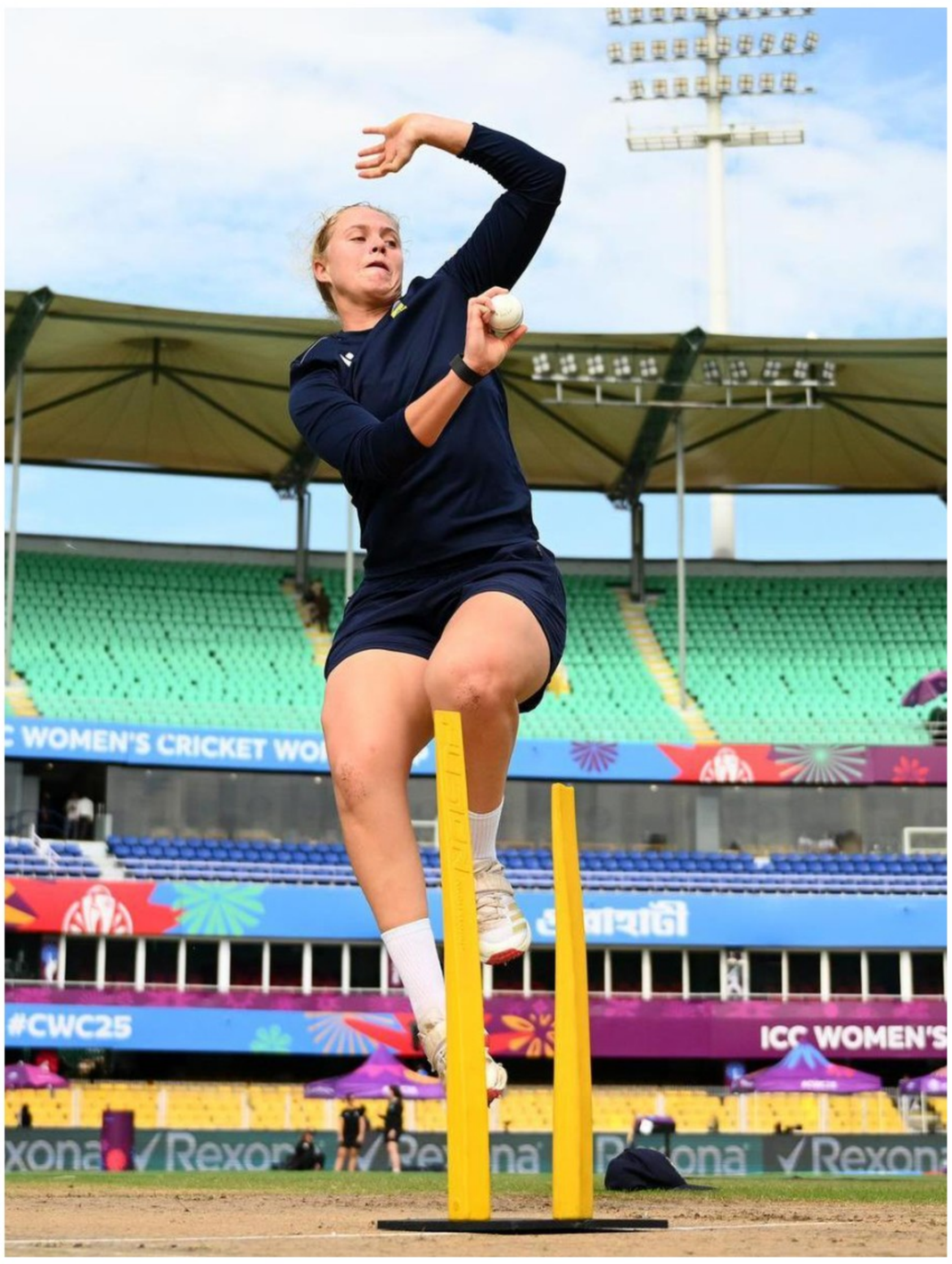
Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, was last lower in June 2017, when it stood at 1.46%. Inflation had fallen below the RBI's lower comfort limit in July 2025, before rising marginally to 2.1% in August.

The food and beverages grouping saw a contraction of 1.4% in September, compared with a growth of 0.05% in August and 8.4% inflation in September last year. "Looking ahead, food inflation is likely to stay benign supported by a favourable base and good monsoon," Rajani Sinha, chief economist at CareEdge Ratings, said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Hard work, humility, high spirits — Dercksen's formula for life and cricket

Hailing from rural South Africa, the all-rounder grew up without electricity and steady access to television; she is now lighting up the international stage for the Proteas



GETTY IMAGES

INTERVIEW

Annerie Dercksen

Anirudh Velamuri
VISAKHAPATNAM

"Hi, I'm Annerie Dercksen, and I'm probably the player that's happiest to be at this World Cup."

There are copious amounts of youthful exuberance interlaced with quick wit, honest thoughts, and a carefree attitude in the 24-year-old allrounder, who settled into the conversation as easily as she has in the green and yellow stripes.

She spent the early games of the ongoing Women's ODI World Cup carrying drinks and bananas for her mates, with growing calls to see her in the lineup for the Proteas coming from her countryfolk and opponents aside.

The first South African to win the ICC Women's Emerging Cricket of the Year Award (in 2024), Dercksen came into the tournament in red-hot form, having scored a memorable 104 against Sri Lanka in May. She is a handy seamer too, modelling her game on Marizanne Kapp. Ahead of her World Cup debut, Dercksen sat down with *The Hindu* to discuss her rapid growth, one playful moment in the nets changing her cricketing destiny, her ultimate career goal, and more. Excerpts.

How has life in India been for you so far?

We've been very busy. We've travelled quite a bit, and our games have been back-to-back. It's been awesome. We got to see a lot of the country. The people and facilities have been amazing. Flying over India and seeing the countryside has been really cool.

You've had a meteoric rise in international cricket. How has that experience been?

I'd like to think I am still the same person. I come from a very humble background, a small farm in a rural area. I've been privileged to have this start to my career, but I know that cricket's a funny game and one day you're on top and the next day you're down at the bottom. You can go from hero to zero pretty quickly. I am grateful to be in this space, but I know it's important to keep working and never take anything for granted.

At what point in your life did you realise cricket was going to be your career?

I saw the South African women play for the first time in 2017. That's when I realised that the women's game exists. I come from a small town where there weren't any women besides me playing cricket. I played with the boys for the fun of it.

I never thought then that it could be a career. When I watched the side in 2017, it was a faraway dream. When I got selected for the SA side and was singing the anthem, and realised, my word, I want to do this for the rest of my life. That's probably where the penny dropped.

How has your upbringing shaped you as a person and a cricketer?

I was just talking to my brother the other day, and we reflected on how we wouldn't want to change a thing about the paths that brought us here. I wouldn't have played cricket if I didn't have just my brother as a friend.

My roots, my hometown, have shaped my choices and my outlook on life. It's helped me never feel like I am better than anyone else. I like the simple things. I am not one for flashy stuff. Hopefully I stay that way forever. If I don't, I hope that someone smacks me and says, "Hey, listen! Please get down to earth again."

Has your life and your family's changed since you became a cricketer?

This is my first job. So I wouldn't say my life has changed too much. I've probably invested my money a bit. I'm looking at maybe life after cricket. Life after cricket will hopefully be a bit longer than life in cricket.

I like simple things in life. I don't spend my money on expensive watches or stuff like that, I am just hoping to set up a good future.

What's the most expensive thing you've bought?

I've bought a house as an investment recently. But that's not a flashy thing, it's an investment. It's a flashy-ish purchase (laughs). Oh I bought an iPad! Or my car. A Toyota Corolla Cross. It's a nice car, not too flashy, and does the job pretty well. They say it's reliable, so I am banking on it lasting for the next 10 years.

You've dabbled in many other sports earlier. What have you carried in terms of skills from them into cricket?

I tried to play a bit of tennis, but wasn't too great at it. All other sports involve getting the ball into the net, so I wasn't too great at tennis (laughs). I was in the provincial teams for everything except hockey. I played hockey for two years. My mother was also quite a good athlete. She used to coach almost everything we did, being in a small town. She knew nothing about cricket though. But the one thing she would tell me about cricket is that, like in other sports, your head position plays a big role.

I did well in shot put, javelin, discus throw, athletics and then netball. In cricket, it's probably more relevant – the bit about the head.

It helps with spatial awareness and in reading the gaps and trying to place the ball there or in defending those gaps too. There are transferable skills in terms of tactics that helped build a nice foundation.

Playing all those sports also contributed to agility, strength, and power.

How supportive were your family members when you decided to take up cricket seriously?

My family has been very supportive of me and my brother in everything we've done. I couldn't have asked for better parents. They had only one condition. They told me I can play whichever sport I want or do whatever I want, but I have to make sure I study something.

In sports, injuries can happen. You never know how long your career might be. They wanted me to have some security to fall back on. I am glad they forced me to make that decision because I made some incredible friends through that process, learned a lot about myself, and developed self-discipline.

Them not knowing too much about cricket, does that help you to properly relax when you go back home?

(Laughs) It's amazing. My brother keeps telling me, whenever I am at home, that I've got to do my chores and that I am not some big cricket star. I think they get pretty angry at me because during our Christmas holidays, cricket is usually on TV.

The men usually play a Test series somewhere around then. I just sit there for five days and watch and they'd walk into the room and be like, 'You can't still be watching cricket.' I am not sorry, I am pretty obsessed with the game!

It's good to have family and friends who don't know much about cricket. They couldn't care less. It's important to have people like that in your life. Maybe when things aren't going too well, they wouldn't know and would be nice about it. (chuckles)

If you hadn't taken up cricket, where would you have been today?

I would have probably done something in business. I've done a couple of short courses in business management and accounting, and accounting was my favourite subject in school too.

Why did you transition from spinner to seamer?

I ask myself that question every single day now, especially when playing in India or subcontinental conditions, when it's so hot and you have to run 20 meters while the spinners just walk by and start to bowl. (laughs)

It wasn't my idea. Once when we were playing in Bangladesh, I just ran in for the fun of it and bowled a bouncer. I didn't think anything of it. I was just being crazy, as I usually am. One of the coaches saw it, and I think our analyst said I have to be a seamer.

At that stage, I thought the most exciting thing ever was getting to run in and bowl a bouncer, so that's all I could do in the first year. I ran in and bowled bouncers.

Our bowling coach, Dillon du Preez, has played a massive role. He's tried to get me to hit different lines and lengths. It's very difficult to get a 22-year-old to try and learn a fast bowling action after being a spinner for so long. There are still times when I look at my action and think I don't even know how the ball goes on the pitch.

A lot of hard work has been put into that. Hopefully, one day I can sort of reap the rewards of it. I'm still trying to convince the coach to maybe make me a hybrid bowler; be a seamer when needed and a spinner when needed. They haven't latched onto that idea, though.

From having someone else's poster on your walls to becoming popular yourself, how does that journey feel?

A girl in my town gave a speech about me the other day. My father sent me that video and I was taken aback! Someone cannot be making a speech about me. I never thought I could be someone's hero. We're just people chasing around the field.

It also made me realise that we have a responsibility as people being in the public eye. Not that I think we're very famous, myself definitely.

People keep comparing you to Kapp – pressure or motivation?

I'm very flattered, but Kappie is in a league of her own. It's pretty surreal that I get to be compared with my idol. But I'm just trying to be the best me for now, and I don't think anyone will ever get to Kappie's level.

I wouldn't say that puts any pressure on me. I'm not too crazy. I don't really read comments about myself online. I'm actually quite bad on my phone, probably because I come from no electricity. [laughs]

Do you have any goals written down in your career checklist?

I'm really not motivated by personal goals. I would really like to win a World Cup. I think very few players have the opportunity to do that. We've been in two finals now, and it's been a lot of heartbreaks. So hopefully our heartbreaks are over now, and we can have some fun and finally celebrate with a World Cup.

Kappie is now 35 years old. She's probably broken every record that we used to break, and she still doesn't have a World Cup. I think that would probably be the main goal for me. I know that as long as I'm doing my best in whatever I'm doing, that improves the team's chances to win a World Cup. I think I would also really love to get into the leagues one day, like the Big Bash League or WPL, or the Hundred. I've heard that it's quite an experience, and you get a lot of coaching and gain a lot of experience through it.

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Expert panel to be set up for polytechnic modernisation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar reviewing the current state of the Cinematography and Sound Recording & Engineering Polytechnic at Hesaraghatta on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In a move to modernise the country's first Cinematography and Sound Recording and Engineering Polytechnic located in Hesaraghatta, Minister for Higher Education M.C. Sudhakar has decided to form a committee of experienced technical experts from the film industry.

The course in Cinematography and Sound Recording & Engineering was originally introduced in 1943 at Sri Jayachamarajendra Government Polytechnic as a result of the foresight of M.Visvesvaraya. In 1996, this course was renamed and relocated to Hesaraghatta, where it was spread across 25 acres, as the Government Film and Television Institute with assistance from the World Bank.

In recent years, there has been a decline in student enrollment, prompting Dr. Sudhakar to personally visit and review the current state of the institute on Monday. During his visit, he observed the lack of technical infrastructure there and instructed officials to list out the deficiencies and submit a report to facilitate the immediate procurement of modern technological equipment. At present, the Film and TV Institute offers only two diploma courses, namely Sound Engineering and Cinematography. The Minister also discussed the introduction of complementary courses. He proposed launching skill-based programmes under one roof, including acting, costume design, sound recording, cinematography, and makeup, along with artificial intelligence and gaming courses, to enhance career-oriented education.

In this regard, he announced the formation of a committee comprising seasoned professionals from various domains of the film industry to strengthen and develop the institute more effectively. The Minister interacted directly with both faculty members and students, listening to their grievances. He instructed the officials to take urgent steps, including providing transportation facilities for students and equipping the hostel with modern technological tools.

As this is a pre-independence educational institution, it houses valuable old cameras and sound recording equipment. Although these items are no longer useful for current needs, the Minister expressed interest in preserving them and setting up a dedicated museum to showcase them.

After viewing various types of vintage cameras and sound equipment, he directed the officials to clean, catalogue, and report on all the items held by the institute.

KSEAB allows repeaters and private candidates to register online for SSLC, II PUC exams

Till now, private candidates, who met the prescribed age limit, had to go to their nearest government high school and PU college to register for the examination and pay the fee

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The KSEAB has taken the step based on the instructions of the Department of School Education and Literacy. FILE PHOTO

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has allowed repeaters and private candidates appearing for SSLC and II PUC examinations from the current academic year to register and pay the exam fee online on its website.

The step was taken based on the instructions of the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL). Speaking to *The Hindu*, Gopalakrishna H.N., Director of KSEAB, said, "For the convenience of repeaters and private candidates, we have implemented a system of online registration for SSLC and II PUC examinations for the first time. Separate guidelines will be issued in a couple of days in this regard."

The board has already implemented online registration for all school candidates (freshers) for SSLC and II PUC examinations. However, every year, more than 90,000 repeaters and private candidates register for these examinations.

Till now, private candidates, who met the prescribed age limit, had to go to their nearest government high school and PU colleges to register for the examination and pay the fee there. Repeaters also had to go to the school and college they had studied earlier, register for the examination and pay the fee.

The fee paid by the candidates was deposited by the headmasters of the respective high schools and principals of the PU colleges to the KSEAB.

However, when candidates went to register for the examination, it was common for headmasters and principals to be absent and students to be allegedly harassed. Many complaints were submitted to the KSEAB about the high fees being charged for the examination.

In addition, sometimes the fees collected from the candidates were not deposited to the KSEAB within the stipulated time, and a few candidates did not receive the admit cards. To avoid these issues, the KSEAB has implemented the online registration process.

Candidates are happy with the development. "I had to go to the college three or four times to register as a private candidate for the II PUC exam last year. I have backlogs in two more subjects, so I am registering for the exam again this year. It is very convenient that the exam registration and fee payment can be done online. This will save our time," said Sagar M.V., a candidate.

Student found dead in school building

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 17-year-old student was killed after he allegedly jumped off his school building at Pulakeshi Nagar on Monday. The deceased has been identified as Aaryn Moses Vyas, a Class 12 science student at a private school in Richards Town.

Police said he came to the school at 8.10 a.m., went to the second floor around 8.20 a.m., and then jumped off. The police are verifying the CCTV footage of the incident.

He was rushed to a private hospital and shifted to another, where he succumbed.

The Pulakeshi Nagar Police have registered a case of Unnatural Death Report (UDR) and are probing further.

Hours later, the school issued a communication to parents and confirmed the death, saying the institution would remain closed on Tuesday as a mark of respect.

According to the school management, Aaryn was not only an exceptional student but a gifted sportsperson.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

Additional 200 medical seats available for third round of counselling

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) has approved an additional 200 medical seats for Karnataka, allocating 50 seats each to four private medical colleges.

"Candidates can enter their options until 8 a.m. on October 15," said H. Prasanna, Executive Director of the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

For the third round, 377 seats were already available. With 200 additional seats, the total number of MBBS seats available for the current academic year has reached 10,216. In addition, 180 dental (BDS) seats are available for allotment in this round, he said.

The seats have been sanctioned to Subbaiah Medical College, Shivamogga; BGS Global Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagarur (near Dasanapura), Bengaluru; Sridevi Medical College, Tumakuru; and A.J. Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangaluru.

Candidates who have already been allotted and admitted to medical colleges in the first and second rounds can participate in this round too. They can enter their new college options from 11 a.m. on October 15 to 8 a.m. on October 16.

'India's rare earth elements strategy should align with global shifts'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's rare earth elements strategy should align with global supply chain shifts and geopolitical pressures, aiming to reduce dependency on dominant players like China, said Abhishek Bhatia, Managing Director & Partner at Boston Consulting Group (BGC).

Steady growth

The country's rare earth elements market is set to grow steadily, driven mainly by the rising demand for magnets used in green technologies, he said, while elaborating on a topic 'Critical minerals - Global Scenario and Strategy for India', at the Critical Mineral Summit organised by Foundation of Science Innovation and Development at Indian Institute of Science here on Monday.

The rare earth elements market is expected to grow at over 6% CAGR until 2040, with magnet applications growing even faster at 8 to 9% CAGR.

According to him, magnets account for just 35% of rare earth element volume but generate over 80% of total industry value, highlighting their economic importance. "This growth is fuelled by demand from electric vehicles, offshore wind power, robotics, and consumer electronics, all relying on permanent magnets," he said.

Mr. Bhatia also emphasised the critical role of magnets in the energy transition and the necessity to focus on this segment for future competitiveness.

Commenting on the strategic importance of rare earth elements in industrial ecosystems, he said building a robust ecosystem for critical minerals was essential to support India's industrial and energy transition goals.

EV scooter destroyed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An electric scooter parked in the basement of a house at Shivanahalli in Basaveshwar Nagar was destroyed due to a fire on Sunday night. No one was injured.

The owner, Mukesh, had parked it for charging.

The fire and emergency personnel later doused the fire.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that one by name K.Nagaraj S/o Krishnappa on misrepresentation has obtained the Agreement of Sale dated 20.12.2023 from my client Smt. Lakshmamma W/o late C.Srinivasappa in respect of the Schedule Property and when the said fact came to the knowledge of my client she has immediately got issued the Legal Notice dated 23.09.2025 to the said K.Nagaraj whereby cancelling the alleged Agreement of Sale dated 20.12.2023. Whereas the said K.Nagaraj has been acting against the interest of my client and any person/s dealing with the said K.Nagaraj with regard to the Schedule Property will be doing so at their own costs and risk for which the principal above named will neither be responsible nor liable for any actions thereof.

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West by : Property bearing Sy.No. 2,
North by : Property bearing Sy.No. 3/2,
South by : Road and Lake.

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No. 408, 2nd Floor, Prabhat Complex,
K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560009.
Ph: 9845068206

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify for the general information to the public, that my clients Smt. Rekha R. Aadhaar No. 9006 8292 6469 and P.R. Divakar Gupta Aadhaar No. 3684 5952 1867 residing at No. 9, second floor 2nd cross, Pipeline Vijayanagar Bengaluru-560040, they have entered into agreement to sell on 30-04-2025 of the property bearing Site No.140 PID No. 37-122-140, measuring East to Wes 40 feet North to South 30 feet total measuring 1200 sq.ft., and including 600 square Building its E- PID No. 5337902669 bounded on : East by : Road, West by : Site No. 139, North by : Site No. 138, South by : Site No. 142, situated at BBMP Ward No. 127 Moodalapalya Panchasheelanagar Nagarabhavi post Bangalore owned and possessed by Smt. Chikkatayamma w/o Late Ramaswamy R/o #140, 3rd Main Road, 4th Cross, Panchasheelanagar Moodalapalya Nagarabhavi Post, Bangalore-560072.
Any Person or Group of Persons or institutions having any Right, Title, Interest, Charge, lien, and minor claims whatsoever in the above said property may lodge his/her and their/its claim to the undersigned with documentary proof within a period of 7 days from the date of this publication failing which it will be presumed that there are no objections /Claims, disputes in respect of the schedule property and they will proceed to get the said property through registered sale transaction and get the property Conveyed in their favour or in their nominee/s.

Smt. Bharati Patil Advocate,
Rajarajeshwarinagar Bangalore-98
Contact No.-9620489639.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction for leasing of Parcel Space, Parking & Advertising and Miscellaneous contracts by Bengaluru Division.

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders for E-Auctions on the following dates:
1. Parking & Pay and Use : 21.10.2025, 23.10.2025
2. Parcel : 14.10.2025, 24.10.2025
3. Advertising ATM & Misc : 14.10.2025, 21.10.2025, 23.10.2025, 24.10.2025, 27.10.2025, 28.10.2025, 29.10.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/540/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ; CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425

Tender Ref. No.: GEM/2025/B/6768221 **Date: 10-10-2025**

Tender Notice Invitation

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/Importer/Authorized Agent for supply of **Inhaled Nitric Oxide Delivery System.** The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

S.N.	Activity	Date & Time
1.	Tender Reference No.	GEM/2025/B/6768221
2.	Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document	10-10-2025
3.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	20/10/2025 at 4:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.
4.	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	31/10/2025 up to 17:00 PM.
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	31/10/2025 at 17:30 PM
6.	Date of Completion of Examination of Technical Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
8.	Date of Completion of Examination of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmsc.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates.

Managing Director, UPMSCL
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

Govt. of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board
Science & Technology Campus, Sirkha Toli, Namkum-Tupudana Road, Namkum, Ranchi – 834010
Website : https://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in e-mail : jceceboard@gmail.com

Advt. No. :–JCECEB/28/25-106 ,Ranchi/Dated: 13/10/2025

Indicative information regarding change in Schedule of 3rd (Third) Round of Online Counselling for admission in All India & NRI Quota Seats in B.D.S. & B.H.M.S. courses

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

In compliance of direction issued by Medical Counselling Committee, New Delhi on 09.10.2025 regarding the NEET-UG Schedule-2025 State Counselling, the Board will organise 3rd (Third) Round of Online Counselling for All India and NRI Quota vacant seats in B.D.S. & B.H.M.S. Courses in Vananchal Dental College and Hospital, Garhwa; Devki Mahavir Homeopathic Medical College & Research Hospital, Garhwa under Babu Dinesh Singh University, Garhwa and Laxmi Chandravansi Homeopathic Medical College Hospital & Research Centre, Bishrampur,Palamu of Jharkhand State as per the Revised Schedule.

Detailed information in this regard has been uploaded under "Important Notice" column at **Board's website http://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in.**

Sd/- (Megha Bhardwaj, I.A.S.)
Controller of Examination

PR 364040 (Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board)25-26*D

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110029
EXAMINATION SECTION

ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 321/2025

F.No.AIIMS/Exam.Sec./Advt./4-5/(INI-CET-PG-January-26)/2025 **30.09.2025**

INI-CET for admission to PG Courses for January 2026 session

AIIMS, New Delhi invites online applications for Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test **(INI-CET) January 2026** Session for admission to PG courses [MD/MS/M.Ch (6 years) / DM(6 years)/MDS] of **AIIMS, New Delhi and other AIIMS, JIPMER Puducherry, NIMHANS Bengaluru, PGIMER Chandigarh & SCTIMST Trivandrum** as per following schedule: -

Online Registration for application	Start date	Closing Date
Online Registration for application	30.09.2025	21.10.2025 (by 5:00 pm)
Status of Registration and last date of correction of rejected Images / Incorrect registration details	24.10.2025	26.10.2025 (by 5:00 pm)
Uploading of admit card on AIIMS website	01st November, 2025 (Saturday)	
Date of Examination	09th November, 2025 (Sunday)	

Please visit the website **www.aiimsexams.ac.in** regularly for all the latest updates and detailed information.

PAAR cbc17112/12/0039/2526

ASSTT. CONTROLLER (EXAMS)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, BENGALURU
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone House Building, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru -560001

PROCLAMATION OF SALE CUM E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ISSUED UNDER RULE 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 (As Amended From Time To Time)

TRC No.1764/2018 in OA. No.587/2017

KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK, (Erstwhile Karnataka Gramin Bank), Tiptur Branch, Tumkur District **....Certificate Holder**

V/s

SRI G. N. RAJASHEKHARAIAH & OTHERS **.... Certificate Debtors**

To: CD 1. G. N. Rajashekharaiah S/o. Late Patel Ningappa, at Gyraghatta Village, Ramonahalli Post, Honnavalli Hobli, Tiptur Taluk, Tumkur District - 572 129. **CD 2 Sri Bhujangaiah** S/o. Beregowda, at Gyraghatta Village, Ramonahalli Post, Honnavalli Hobli, Tiptur Taluk, Tumkur District - 572 129. **CD 3 Smt. Gayathri,** D/o. Sri Bhujangaiah at Gyraghatta Village, Ramonahalli Post, Honnavalli Hobli, Tiptur Taluk, Tumkur District - 572 129. **CD 4 . Master Ravi** S/o. Sri Bhujangaiah at Gyraghatta Village, Ramonahalli Post, Honnavalli Hobli, Tiptur Taluk, Tumkur District - 572 129. **CD 5. Smt. Triveni** D/o. G. N. Rajashekharaiah, at Gyraghatta Village, Ramonahalli Post, Honnavalli Hobli, Tiptur Taluk, Tumkur District - 572 129. **CD 6 . Sri Mohan Kumar** S/o. G. N. Rajashekharaiah, at Gyraghatta Village, Ramonahalli Post, Honnavalli Hobli, Tiptur Taluk, Tumkur District - 572 129. **.... Certificate Debtors**

The under mentioned property will be sold by '**online e-Auction**' through web site: **www.bankauctions.in** on **17.12.2025** for recovery of an amount of **Rs.33,93,330/-** (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Only) as on 30.06.2025. The futures interest is chargeable at the same rate till realization of debt as per recovery certificate bearing **TRC No.1764/2018 in OA No. 587/2017.**

Date, Time of Auction	**17.12.2025 at beween 11.00 A. M. to 12.30 P.M.**
Reserve Price	**Rs.33,30,000/-** (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Thirty Thousand Only)
Earnest Money Deposit	**Rs.3,33,000/-** (Rupees Three Lakhs Thirty Three Thousand Only)
Bid Increment Amount	**Rs.1,00,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh Only)
Last day for Bid Submission	**by 4.00 P.M. on 15.12.2025**

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY : All that piece of land and parcel bearing Survey No. 122 (Old No.) 122/1 (New No.) to the extent 2.31 acres and Survey No. 122/2 (New No.) to the extent of 1 acre total measuring 3.31 acres situated at at Gyreghatta Village, Honnavalli Hobli, Tiptur Taluk of Tumkur District Bounded by : East : Road, West : Sri Rangegowda's Property, North: Drain (Halla), South : Road.

For Terms and condition of sale visit website: **www.bankauctions.in, M/s. Forecloser India Pvt. Ltd., (Contact person: Mr. Varun- 8142000809, Mr. Jayaprakash Reddy 8142000066. e mail Id : info@bankauctions.in.** For further details contact: **Sri Ranganath R., Branch Manager, Tiptur Branch, Tumkur District - Mob : 9900117729 & Sri Vijay Kumar, Chief Managar, ARM Branch, Bengaluru - Mob : 9579575790 , e- mail id : br2136@kgbk.in & arm@kgbk.in** for ascertaining the details of property and also for inspection of properties.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal at Bangalore on **03.10.2025**

Sd/-
Recovery Officer -2
DRT-2, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, BENGALURU
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone House Building, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru -560001

PROCLAMATION OF SALE CUM E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ISSUED UNDER RULE 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 (As Amended From Time To Time)

RC No.1726/2018 in OA. No.486/2017

KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK, (Erstwhile Karnataka Gramin Bank), Tiptur Branch, Tumkur District **....Certificate Holder**

V/s

SRI M.C. RAVEESH & OTHERS **.... Certificate Debtors**

To: CD 1. Sri M.C. Raveesh S/o. Late Chikkanna Shetty, Kobbari Doddaiahna Palya, Gudigondanahalli Post, Tiptur Taluk, Tumkur District.**CD 2 Sri K. P. Pradeep** S/o. M.C. Raveesh Kobbari Doddaiahna Palya, Gudigondanahalli Post, Tiptur Taluk, Tumkur District. **CD 3 Sri K. R. Praveen** S/o. M.C. Raveesh Kobbari Doddaiahna Palya, Gudigondanahalli Post, Tiptur Taluk, Tumkur District. **CD 4. Bhavana** D/o. M.C. Raveesh Kobbari Doddaiahna Palya, Gudigondanahalli Post, Tiptur Taluk, Tumkur District. **.... Certificate Debtors**

The under mentioned property will be sold by '**online e-Auction**' through web site: **www.bankauctions.in** on **10.12.2025** for recovery of an amount of **Rs.42,87,747/-** (Rupees Forty Two Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Seven Only) as on 31.05.2025. The futures interest is chargeable at the same rate till realization of debt as per recovery certificate bearing **RC No.1726/2018 in OA No. 486/2017.**

Date, Time of Auction	**10.12.2025 at beween 11.00 A. M. to 12.30 P.M.**
Reserve Price	**Rs.57,00,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Seven Lakhs Only)
Earnest Money Deposit	**Rs.5,70,000/-** (Rupees Five Lakhs Seventy Thousand Only)
Bid Increment Amount	**Rs.1,00,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh Only)
Last day for Bid Submission	**by 4.00 P.M. on 08.12.2025**

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY : All that piece of land and parcel of 5 Acres 28 Guntas of agriculture land in Survey No. 16/1 situated at Thimlapura Village, Tiptur Taluk of Tumkur District Bounded by : East : Land of Sri Gavi Rangappa, West : Land owned by defendatns, North: Governemt Road, South : Land owned by Sri M. C. Shivakumar.

For Terms and condition of sale visit website: **www.bankauctions.in, M/s. Forecloser India Pvt. Ltd., (Contact person: Mr. Varun- 8142000809, Mr. Jayaprakash Reddy 8142000066. e mail Id : info@bankauctions.in.** For further details contact: **Sri Ranganath R., Branch Manager, Tiptur Branch, Tumkur District - Mob : 9900117729 & Sri Vijay Kumar, Chief Managar, ARM Branch, Bengaluru - Mob : 9579575790 , e- mail id : br2136@kgbk.in & arm@kgbk.in** for ascertaining the details of property and also for inspection of properties.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal at Bangalore on **03.10.2025**

Sd/-
Recovery Officer -2
DRT-2, Bengaluru

Snow leopards are the world's least genetically diverse big cat

A new Stanford-based study explains the implications of this phenomenon for the future of the elusive feline; researchers used whole-genome sequencing data for 37 snow leopards and concluded that the low genetic diversity is likely due to a persistently small population size

Divya Gandhi

The snow leopard is distinguished by an unusually long tail that it uses like a rudder to stay balanced as it traverses rough terrain. PUBLIC DOMAIN

The snow leopard, the agile "ghost of the mountains" that inhabits the rugged ranges of 12 Asian countries, including India, has the lowest genetic diversity of any big cat species in the world, even lower than that of the dwindling cheetah.

A new study led by researchers at Stanford University, published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) on October 7, explained the implications of this phenomenon.

The researchers used whole-genome sequencing data for 37 snow leopards and concluded that the low genetic diversity is, however, "likely due to a persistently small population size throughout their evolutionary history rather than recent inbreeding."

'Purging' of mutations

This means that "mutations that could potentially cause health issues in snow leopards have been removed from the population over many generations," lead author Katie Solari, a research scientist in biology at Stanford, told *The Hindu*.

The PNAS paper added, "We found snow leopards to have the lowest heterozygosity of any big cat species, with heterozygosity for every snow leopard sample included in this study falling lower than that observed in any other big cat." This included cheetahs, "which have long been considered the archetype of low heterozygosity in big cats."

The good news is that snow leopards, compared to several *Panthera* species, have a significantly lower highly deleterious homozygous load – genes inherited from the mother and father that have fewer instances of duplicated copies of potentially harmful mutations that are connected with health issues.

This, the authors said, suggests effective "purging" of bad mutations during their evolutionary history at small population sizes.

"If a negative trait surfaced, those individuals died before reproducing, or their progeny were less successful. This purging, facilitated by historic inbreeding, allowed the snow leopard population to remain relatively healthy even at their small numbers," an article in the *Stanford Report* read.

In fact, "the inbreeding coefficient of snow leopards is significantly higher than other big cats and was even significantly lower than the Asian leopard and puma, indicating that the lower genetic diversity observed in snow leopards is not explained by higher inbreeding," per the research paper.

Dr. Solari told *The Hindu* that the very low genetic diversity and small population sizes mean they may not be able to adapt well to future anthropogenic challenges.

Critical to Asia's mountains

The wild feline indeed faces a long list of threats today: climate change, habitat loss, decreased availability of primary prey (mountain ungulates such as the Siberian ibex), retaliatory killings for livestock predation, and poaching for their skin. All this while climate change in Asia's high mountains threatens their future. Despite this, snow leopards, which were first listed as 'endangered,' were controversially downlisted to 'vulnerable' in 2017, as they did not meet certain criteria for population size.

There are no more than 4,500 to 7,500 individuals, each critical to the Asian mountain ecosystem "that offers immense ecosystem services – acting as an important source of carbon storage and providing water to almost two billion people."

Hearteningly, however, the international community has worked for decades to establish a sustainable zoo population: in 2008, there were 445 snow leopards across 205 institutions globally, the paper read.

The snow leopard, distinguished by an unusually long tail, which acts as a rudder to help it keep its balance as it traverses its rough terrain, happens to be the least genetically studied of all big cat species. There is, however, evidence of continuous habitat connectivity across at least 75 km in Pakistan and around 1,000 km in Mongolia, and the animal is known to cross long distances between mountain ranges, according to the study.

'Very poorly studied'

As for India, a pioneering survey last year estimated that 718 snow leopards exist in the wild: 477 in Ladakh, 124 in Uttarakhand, 51 in Himachal Pradesh, 36 in Arunachal Pradesh, 21 in Sikkim, and nine in Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian snow leopard accounts for 10-15 percent of the global population.

"Of the 12 countries with wild snow leopards, India has the highest numbers after China and Mongolia. That makes India one of the most important countries for the conservation of this species," Kulbhushansingh Suryawanshi, with the India programme of the Snow Leopard Trust at the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), Mysore, told *The Hindu*.

If a negative trait surfaced, those individuals died before reproducing, or their progeny were less successful. This purging, facilitated by historic inbreeding, allowed the snow leopard population to remain relatively healthy even at their small numbers

He added that the genetic diversity of leopards in India "is very poorly studied ... We need to sample across the high mountains to understand the genetic diversity of snow leopards in India."

"India's Project Snow Leopard, dedicated to the conservation of snow leopards, and NGOs such as the NCF, have been working on snow leopard conservation for 27 years. Local community members from snow leopard habitats such as Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal are key partners in the conservation of snow leopards," said Dr. Suryawanshi.

But the snow leopard in India is threatened by land use change and climate change, he said.

"Almost the entire snow leopard habitat in India is within 50-100 km of the international border. Large-scale infrastructure is changing the face of this region. Climate change-induced warming and floods are impacting the wildlife of this landscape, including the snow leopards, to a large extent."

Maintaining integrity

Dr. Suryawanshi, who is a co-author of the paper, said the main challenge of studying snow leopards is in "getting the samples." Bureaucratic hurdles in getting permissions to study snow leopards generally slow down research, he said.

"In addition, the timelines of funding and permissions often do not match. The Stanford study collaborated with researchers around the world, and only then were they able to put together enough samples to make an assessment of the genetic diversity of snow leopards. We need to collect a similar number of samples from within India to understand the genetic diversity of snow leopards in the country."

On the future fate of snow leopards of the fragile high-elevation landscape of the Himalayas, "we need to treat these landscapes and the people that live here with respect," said Dr. Suryawanshi. "The effects of rampant large infrastructure projects are clearly visible in the scale of destruction in the recurrent floods that occur every monsoon."

Maintaining the integrity of the snow leopard's habitat is crucial for the long-term conservation of this charismatic species of the Himalaya, Dr. Suryawanshi added.

divya.gandhi@thehindu.co.in

The IUCN World Congress will drive action on nature-based recovery, climate change, and biodiversity. AFP

Arctic seals, birds in new 'red list' of endangered species: IUCN

Agence France Presse

Arctic seals and birds are coming under increasing threat, mainly due to climate change and human activity, according to an updated list of endangered species released Friday by the world's top conservation body.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said habitat loss driven by logging and agricultural expansion is a threat to birds. At the same time, seals were at risk mostly due to global warming and human activities, including maritime traffic.

The IUCN said it was changing the status of the hooded seal from vulnerable to endangered while bearded and harp seals are now classified as near threatened.

"This timely global update highlights the ever increasing impact human activity is having on nature and the climate and the devastating effects this has," its director general Grethel Aguilar told reporters at its World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi.

The IUCN red list now includes "172,620 species of which 48,646 are threatened with extinction," it said in a statement.

Global warming is destroying the natural habitat of animals including seals that live in the cold parts of the world. Maritime traffic, mining and oil extraction, industrial fishing and hunting are among other risks to the species.

"Global warming is occurring four times faster in the Arctic than in other regions, which is drastically reducing the extent and duration of sea ice cover," the IUCN said.

"Ice-dependent seals are a key food source for other animals," it added.

They "play a central role in the food web, consuming fish and invertebrates and recycling nutrients" and are one of the "keystone species" of their ecosystem.

Kit Kovacs, a scientist at the Norwegian Polar Institute, raised the alarm about the Svalbard archipelago, halfway between Norway and the North Pole.

Habitat loss is a threat to birds. At the same time, seals were at risk mostly due to global warming and human activities

"When I lived on the archipelago, just a couple of decades ago, we had five months of sea ice cover in areas that are now winter ice-free. It is really hard to express just how rapidly the Arctic is changing," she said.

The IUCN said its red list of birds is the fruit of nine years of work by "thousands of experts".

"Overall, 61% of bird species have declining populations – an estimate that has increased from 44 percent in 2016," the IUCN said.

It studied thousands of bird species worldwide and found that "1,256 (or 11.5%) of the 11,185 species assessed are globally threatened".

This year's update focused on regions where the destruction of tropical forest poses a growing threat to birds. In Madagascar, 14 species were newly classified as near threatened and three others were labelled vulnerable. In West Africa, five more bird species were found to be near threatened in addition to one more in Central America.

The report also mentioned a positive development. The green turtle is no longer endangered, it said, citing "decades of sustained conservation action" that saw its population recover by 28% since the 1970s.

Nicolas Pilcher, the Executive Director of the Marine Research Foundation, said this success should spur action not complacency.

"Just because we have reached this great step in conservation isn't a reason to sit back and then become complacent," he said.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Science on the track and field

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1
In elite athletics, any reaction faster than X to the starting gun is considered a false start because that is roughly the time it takes for a nerve impulse to travel from the ear to the brain and finally to the leg muscles. What's the value of X in seconds?

QUESTION 2
The best sprinters have legs that act like springs. Their corresponding _____ allows them to store and release elastic energy efficiently, propelling them forward without losing energy in deformation. Fill the blank with a property that's the converse of flexibility.

QUESTION 3
Name the American high-jumper who introduced a particular technique at the 1968 Summer Olympics that allowed his body to arch backwards over the bar, letting his centre of mass pass below it, using body mechanics more efficiently than earlier styles.

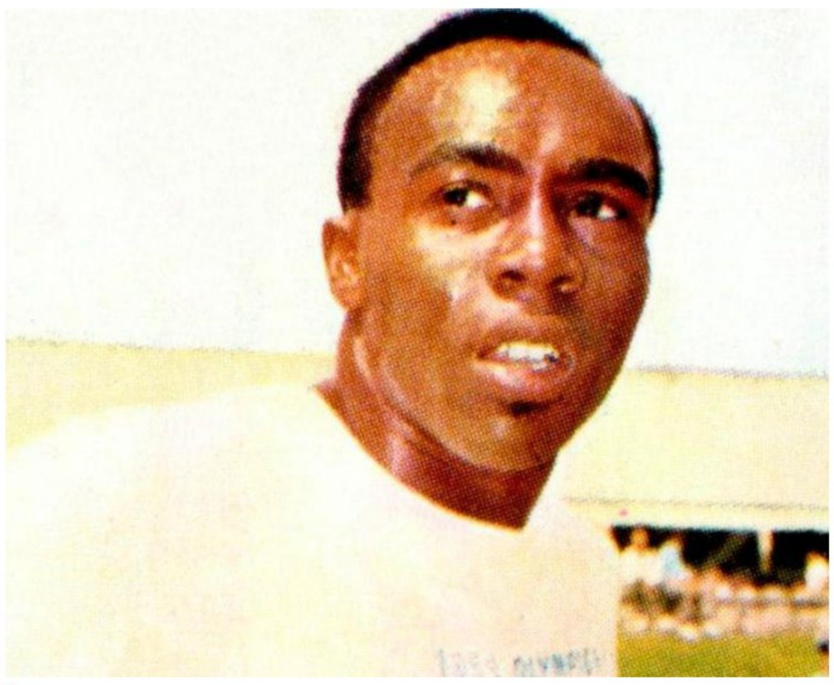
QUESTION 4
In the 1980s, elite javelin throws were getting dangerously long, more than 100 m. To keep these throws from threatening spectators in stadiums, engineers moved the javelin's centre of gravity in which direction so that it would nosedive sooner in its flight?

QUESTION 5
In sprinting events, a tailwind of Y m/s or greater disqualifies a performance from being eligible for setting or breaking a record because, beyond this speed, the wind provides a measurable aerodynamic advantage. The performance itself is logged as valid, however. What's the value of Y?

Answers to October 9 quiz:
1. Compound that donates phosphate group to ADP – **Ans: PEP**
2. Expanded form of TOT – **Ans: Turnover time**
3. Formula for nitrogen atoms joined by a double bond – **Ans: N_2N**
4. Expanded form of radar – **Ans: Radio detection and ranging**
5. Long, narrow craft propelled by paddles – **Ans: Kayak**

Visual: **Wow!**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Anmol Agrawal | Deepak Gogiya



Visual: Name this American track and field athlete who, on October 14, 1968, became the first man to run the 100 m race in under 10 seconds.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Share of women among autoimmune disease patients

70 In per cent. Doctors observed that these conditions are most common among women aged 20-50 due to hormonal, genetic, and lifestyle factors. Autoimmune diseases occur when the immune system mistakenly attacks the body's own tissues, affecting joints, and internal organs. PTI

Trees illegally cut down at the UPSIDA park in Mathura

82 Authorities in Mathura have lodged an FIR after 82 trees, including Eucalyptus and Juliflora species, were illegally cut down from a park owned by the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA). The park had been handed over to the B.N. Group for maintenance. PTI

Number of fake cigarette sticks seized by the Delhi police

2.4 In lakh. The Delhi Police have dismantled a counterfeit cigarette supply network and seized around 2.4 lakh fake cigarette sticks during a raid in West Delhi's Nilothi Extension area. Police said the accused were part of a syndicate that trafficked fake cigarettes into Delhi. PTI

Number of people killed in the Israel-Hamas war

67,869 The health ministry in Gaza said on Monday that the death toll from the Israel-Hamas war has reached 67,869. The ministry said bodies were still being recovered, nearly two years after the conflict began on October 7, 2023. AFP

The number of stray dogs found in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

47,126 A recent survey by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation found that the city has 47,126 stray dogs, about 3.62% of its 13 lakh population. Of these, 23,047 are males and 15,552 females. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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A realignment of Pak.-Afghan relations

At the core of the conflict is how Pakistan's military Establishment and the Taliban perceive each other. Pakistan looks at the Taliban as its vassal. It expects the latter to be grateful for its crucial political and military support; a view that is not shared by the increasingly independent Taliban

WORLD INSIGHT

D. Suba Chandran

On October 11 and 12, there was an intense clash along the Durand Line between Pakistan and Afghanistan with substantial casualties on both sides. According to Islamabad, its forces killed more than 200 fighters on the Afghan side, while the Taliban has claimed the killing of 58 Pakistani soldiers. According to an official press release by the Pakistan Establishment (military), there were precision fires and strikes and physical raids targeting "Taliban camps and posts, terrorist training facilities and support networks operating from Afghan territory, including elements linked to Fitna al Khwarij (FAK), Fitna al Hindustan (FAH) and ISKP/ Daesh." The Afghan military was quoted to have stated that the Afghan attacks were "in retaliation for the air strikes by Pakistani forces." Taliban's defence ministry went on to state that the operations ended at midnight of October 11 and "if the opposing side violates Afghanistan's territory again, our armed forces are ready to defend their territory and will respond firmly."

Following the clashes, Pakistan has closed the border crossings between the two countries.

For Pakistan, the clashes started on October 11, with "unprovoked" attacks from the Afghan side. For the Taliban, the border clashes were a response to an earlier attack by Pakistan on October 9, inside Afghanistan in the Kabul and Paktika province. While there have been minor skirmishes during recent years across the Durand Line, the latest attacks are the most important in recent Afghanistan-Pakistan history, and likely to be transformative in the Taliban-Pakistan military Establishment relationship.

On the road: Afghans en route to Afghanistan sit atop a truck, as they await deportation at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Chaman on October 13. AFP

THE GIST

For Pakistan, the clashes started on October 11, with "unprovoked" attacks from the Afghan side. For the Taliban, the border clashes were a response to an earlier attack by Pakistan on October 9, inside Afghanistan in the Kabul and Paktika province.

Media reports have speculated that the target of Pakistan's attack in Kabul could have been Noor Wali Mehsud, leader of the Pakistan Taliban. The two attacks on October 9 could also have been a warning to Afghanistan to not get close to India.

If Pakistan sees Afghanistan as a vassal state, blaming Kabul (and India) for all its internal violence will worsen the relationship.

Understanding the geography

The first set of attacks in the last week took place on October 9 in Kabul, the Afghan capital, and in the Paktika province. Kabul is just 230 km by road from Torkham at the western end of the Khyber Pass in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. As the crow flies, it should be less than 100 km if Pakistan has to conduct any aerial operations over Kabul. Of the five eastern Afghan provinces that share a border with two provinces of Pakistan, KP and Balochistan, Paktika shares the border with two tribal regions in KP – North and South Waziristan – the stronghold of the Mehsud and Wazir tribes.

The second set of attacks took place from October 11 to 12 along the Durand Line across the tribal regions – starting from Chitral in the north to Waziristan in the south. In return, Pakistan had targeted Afghan posts as well as training command and forts on the Afghan side.

Chequered history

After propping up the Taliban in the 1990s, and supporting it over the next two decades, why has Pakistan turned against them now?

The trigger for the recent clashes differ for both countries. Media reports have speculated that the target of Pakistan's attack in Kabul could have been Noor Wali Mehsud, leader of the Pakistan Taliban. The two attacks on October 9 could also have been a warning to Afghanistan to not get close to India, for on that day, the Afghan foreign minister had landed in New Delhi for a week-long trip in India. Surprisingly, Pakistan's DG-ISPR statement on October 12 also refers to the Afghan minister's visit to India, but links it to Afghanistan's "serious provocation," and ignores its earlier October 9 attack in Kabul.

While the above two incidents were the trigger, the following five reasons could be identified as the underlying causes for the tensions between Pakistan's Establishment and the Taliban. At the core of the conflict is how Pakistan and the Taliban perceive each other. Pakistan's Establishment looks at the Taliban as its vassal. It expects the latter to be grateful for its creation in the 1990s, and the crucial political and military support it has received, both overtly and covertly, during the last three decades from Pakistan. On the other hand, the Taliban sees itself as independent, having weathered the previous two decades, especially Pakistan playing a double act during the U.S. occupation of Afghanistan during 2001-21.

Pakistan wants Kabul to be subservient to its strategic interests, while the Taliban seeks to chart a new beginning and pursue an independent policy, both within Afghanistan and outside.

Kabul had also initiated a dialogue with China. In August 2025, China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, visited Kabul and talked about investments in Afghanistan, especially in the mining sector. China has also started receiving official delegations from Afghanistan, including its Ambassador. In July 2025, Russia recognised the Taliban and accepted its Ambassador in Moscow. The Taliban wants to have its own external engagement while Islamabad expects its approval for the same. Pakistan's attack in Kabul and Paktika last week, when the Afghan foreign minister was visiting India, is not a coincidence. Pakistan wants the Taliban to be dependent on it, from economy and trade to foreign policy. The recent New Delhi-Kabul rapprochement has not gone down well with the Establishment.

Secondly, Pakistan wants the Taliban to give up its support to the Tehrik-e-Taliban-Pakistan (TTP). Pakistan has been accusing the Taliban of providing a safe haven for the TTP, and also to Daesh and Indian proxies. The Taliban had developed close linkages with the TTP during the U.S. occupation. The Pakistani Taliban, especially the Mehsuds and Wazirs, had provided crucial support to the Taliban when Pakistan was playing a double game during 2001-21. So, it is possible that the Taliban still maintains connections with the TTP. However, Taliban disagrees with the Pakistan Establishment, and blames the latter's militant problems squarely on Pakistan itself. For the Taliban, the Daesh militants are equally a threat.

Third, within Pakistan, the Establishment has either usurped external relations vis-à-vis the Taliban and Afghanistan, or the Parliament has abdicated its responsibility of the same. Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, it has been the Establishment which has carried out Pakistan's Afghan policy and not the Parliament. The latter has become a mere spectator, and even a supporter. The first thing that Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said after the latest clashes with Afghanistan was to praise the Army Chief for his resolve. The weak civil-military relations within Pakistan have been an important factor in Pakistan's troubled relationship with all its neighbours, including Afghanistan.

Fourth, for the Taliban, the biggest issue is Islamabad's unilateral decision to deport Afghan nationals from Pakistan. Since the 1980s, Pakistan has been hosting millions of Afghans who crossed the Durand Line in multiple waves. During the 1980s and 90s, Pakistan saw Afghan nationals as an asset, and as part of its strategic interests. Now, with the Taliban at the helm, Pakistan considers the Afghans within their territory as a liability. Since 2023, Pakistan has been unilaterally deporting, first, undocumented Afghan migrants (who came into Pakistan without any valid papers or registration), and later even registered Afghan refugees. The Taliban and the Afghans are against such unilateral deportation. Even international organisations, such as the UN Human Rights Council, have criticised Pakistan's decision to deport Afghan migrants and refugees.

The fifth and final issue is the unilateral and repeated closure of border points by Pakistan in KP and Balochistan – especially at Torkham and Chaman. These two border points are not only the largest bilateral trade posts but also the primary entry and exit points for goods and people into Afghanistan. Though Afghanistan shares borders with Iran and Central Asia, historically, these two points have acted as global gateways for the movement of Afghans and of goods. Pakistan understands the strategic importance of these border points for Afghanistan; in recent years, it has repeatedly closed these two border posts, primarily as a pressure strategy against Kabul.

Pakistan sees the border points as a leverage, while Afghanistan sees them as their lifeline.

Readjusting relations

Pakistan, during the last few years, has been looking at the changing regional situation and pursuing actions to address it. Its recent rapprochement with Iran, its defence agreement with Saudi Arabia and the recent developments with the U.S. are part of this.

Similarly, the Taliban has also started to readjust to its regional environment. During recent years, it has been facing an assertive Iran, and like Islamabad, Tehran has also been deporting Afghan nationals. As mentioned above, the Taliban has opened a front with its immediate and extended neighbourhood – Moscow, Beijing and now New Delhi. Taliban needs these external engagements, not only for political reasons, but also to sustain its economy and rebuild Afghanistan.

Pakistan also has a serious internal problem in Balochistan and KP, for which the Establishment is blaming other nations, especially India.

If Pakistan sees Afghanistan as a vassal state, blaming Kabul (and India) for all its internal violence will worsen the relationship. The Establishment's control of Pakistan's Afghan policy will worsen an already bad situation.

D. Suba Chandran is Professor and Dean, School of Conflict and Security Studies, National Institute of Advanced Studies.

'DPR of tunnel road prepared in a hurry'

Panel has also highlighted major shortcomings in traffic studies and questions the very need of the project, given the planned metro line

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

In a blow to the Karnataka government and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's ambitious Tunnel Road Project in Bengaluru, the expert committee appointed by the Karnataka Urban Development Department to review the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has said that DPR had been prepared in a hurry, relying on only four soil test points for planning the tunnel, far 'too few' for a project of this scale.

It also echoed concerns raised around the proposed project's impact on one of the city's biggest lung spaces, the Lalbagh Botanical Garden. "Positioning one of the tunnel shafts within Lalbagh Botanical Garden needs to be re-examined because of environmental sensitivity," it recommended.

The committee, headed by Siddanagouda Hegaraddi, Executive Director (Civil), Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), highlighted major shortcomings in traffic studies, including a lack of primary data and also questioned the very need of the tunnel project, given the planned metro line.

The expert panel highlighted that the proposed tunnel runs almost parallel to the planned metro line. The report noted that both the projects are designed to serve the same north-south corridor of Bengaluru, and that without clear data on how many people will shift from private vehicles to metro or buses in the coming years, the justification for such a costly project cannot be verified.

"The general apprehension of stakeholders is that the road tunnel project on the proposed alignment will become redundant as it is running almost parallel with the proposed metro line. This apprehension could not be addressed in the absence of breakup of peak hour traffic data with modal share and projected peak hour traffic data," the report, accessed by *The Hindu,* observed.

Without accurate traffic data, lane requirements, toll projections, and congestion estimates remain unrealistic. "The DPR documents should clearly illustrate the justification to overcome such apprehensions of the stakeholders with adequate data and analysis," the report recommended.

The committee has echoed concerns around the proposed project's impact on one of the city's biggest lung spaces, the Lalbagh Botanical Garden. K. MURALI KUMAR

Key recommendations

- Justify tunnel alignment despite proximity to proposed metro line
- Re-examine positioning of the shaft within Lalbagh
- Provide a minimum of two-lane configuration for entry and exit ramps at Palace Ground/ Mehkri Circle
- Correct horizon year or modify lane configuration

Important elements pointed out by expert panel

- Land acquisition plan and schedules
- Utility mapping and relocation plan
- Tree enumeration and relocation plan
- Environmental impact assessment and environmental mitigation plan
- Social impact assessment report and resettlement and rehabilitation
- Technical specifications for all items of work
- Comprehensive disaster management and security plan
- Pavement design for all sections other than tunnels built using New Austrian Tunnelling Method
- Hydraulic design calculations for nala diversion and storm-water drainage

Lack of primary data

Traffic studies were flagged as 'particularly weak' by the panel, which noted that the DPR lacked primary data, relying instead on reconnaissance surveys and assumptions with no field surveys conducted. No original measurements were taken to support lane and alignment recommendations. Key details such as mode-wise distribution of commuters, projected peak-hour traffic, and expected modal shifts to BMTC buses, metro, and suburban rail were missing. Other technical issues included entry and exit ramps and intermediate lane configuration. While the committee acknowledged that 'efforts have been made to locate the entry/exit ramps in the vicinity of existing signal-controlled junctions to avoid traffic conflicts', it warned that these ramps could cause congestion due to merging traffic emerging from tunnel and surface traffic. Intermediate lane configurations at Palace Ground and Mehkri Circle were also said to be insufficient, with the committee recommending that 'a minimum of two-lane configurations should be provided for entry and exit ramps'. The committee further pointed out that the DPR considered a 'horizon year' (future year for which traffic projections are made) of 2041, which is just 10 years after the project's expected completion, instead of the standard 25-year period required for such infrastructure projects. Based on the available traffic data, demand for the year 2041 would justify only 2+2 lanes with paved shoulders. However, the DPR proposes a 3+3 lane configuration, which meets the 25-year projection. The committee said this mismatch means that either the horizon year needs to be corrected to 25 years, or the lane configuration needs modification.

According to a comparative analysis by mobility expert Sathya Arikutharam, who analysed the reports by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport and that by the expert committee, both committees independently found that the project lacks a strategic, transport, and environmental case.

B-SMILE drafts DPRs for 13 elevated corridors worth ₹18,000 crore

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

While the debate over the tunnel road project continues, B-SMILE has prepared drafts of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for 13 elevated corridors spanning 126 km, estimated to cost the government ₹18,000 crore - about ₹142 crore a km.

The elevated corridors are one of the four major infrastructure projects planned by the government to decongest Bengaluru. The others include the tunnel road project, Sancharayuktha - construction of roads along the Storm Water Drain (SWD) buffer zones, and the white-topping of city roads.

The initial proposal, submitted to the government in 2024, included building elevated corridors covering 110 km, estimated to cost around ₹13,200 crore, excluding land acquisition. Now, the project has been extended to 126 km with an estimated cost of ₹18,000 crore, also excluding land acquisition. The State may have to spend an additional ₹4,500 to ₹5,000 crore on land acquisition.

B.S. Prahallad, Technical Director at B-SMILE, told *The Hindu* that traffic density on several corridors turned out to be higher than initially projected, prompting an increase in the corridor length.

According to a B-SMILE document, the works have been divided into 13 packages: five packages for stretches between 0 and five km, three packages for five and 10 km, and five packages for corridors above 10 km.

The B-SMILE plans to build 72 km, about 57.14% of the total length, as three-lane corridors, while the remaining 54 km will have two lanes, according to Mr. Prahallad.

The draft DPR will be submitted to the government on Tuesday. Once approved, the B-SMILE will float tenders for the 13 packages, with a deadline of 30 months.

Five major stretches

- Yeshwanthpur to K.R. Puram via Mehkri Circle and Ulsoor
- Yelahanka New Town to Kempegowda International Airport
- Outer Ring Road (Hennur Main Road Junction) to Bagalur Junction (to provide additional link road to KIA)
- Old Madras Road to Madiwala via Indiranagar
- Hosur Road (Shoolay Circle) to Silk Board Junction

New technology

According to a GBA source, Ultra-High-Performance Concrete (UHPC) technology will be used to construct the elevated corridors, ensuring greater durability, faster completion, and improved aesthetics.

Typically, flyover and metro spans range from 18 to 25 metres, sometimes extending to 35 metres. In this project, where UHPC will be used, each span will be moulded to 45 to 50 metres, with a maximum possible range of 60 metres. Spans are primary carriageway structures placed between two supporting pillars or piers.

PPP model

While the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model is the preferred choice for funding, the B-SMILE has not yet finalised the approach.

It is also yet to finalise a compensation model for those losing land to the project.

Three arrested on charge of robbing sub-inspector from T.N.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused robbed two mobile phones, ₹10,000 in cash, and a gold chain weighing 16 grams

The Channapatna Rural police have arrested a gang of three men for allegedly robbing a police sub-inspector from Tamil Nadu at knifepoint on the Bengaluru-Mysuru national highway.

P.J. Shaji from Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu was working as a special sub-inspector in the Cherambadi police station. He was on his way to Bengaluru with his wife to pick up his elder son.

Knifepoint

Around 1.45 a.m., Shaji stopped his car near Channapatna for a nap. Suddenly, the three men arrived in their two-wheeler and allegedly threatened Shaji and his family at knifepoint. The accused robbed two mobile phones, ₹10,000 in cash, and a gold chain weighing 16 grams and fled from the spot.

Based on the complaint, the Channapatna Rural police registered a case of robbery and tracked down the accused who have been identified as Syed Tanveer, 30, from Channapatna; Fairoz Pasha, 28, from Bengaluru South District; and Tanveer Pasha, 32, from Gejjalagudde.

Ensure ORR is in good condition, GBA chief instructs officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao on Monday instructed officials to ensure the Outer Ring Road (ORR), from Hebbal Junction to Nayandahalli Junction, is maintained in good condition while expediting pending road and footpath works along the stretch.

At Hebbal Junction, Mr. Rao noted that the wet mix had already been laid and ordered that asphalting be completed immediately. He also instructed officials to construct a high-rise pedestrian crossing to facilitate safe pedestrian movement in the busy junction area. Mr. Rao directed the redesign and utilisation of the unused space earmarked for a bus stand near the Hebbal police station.

Inspecting the Bhadrappa Layout flyover area, Mr. Rao said that the damaged service road is being developed under the High-Density Corridor Project and directed officials to coordinate with the Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE), which is carrying out works in the same area, to complete the repair at the earliest. At Kanteerava Studio Junction, he observed unclean surroundings and water leakage from a BWSSB line, following which Mr. Rao called the BWSSB Chairman on the spot and instructed immediate completion of the work. He also ordered the removal of footpath encroachments, relocation of a transformer, and penalisation of a property owner for dumping construction debris on the footpath.

During the inspection, several abandoned vehicles were found along the ORR. Mr. Rao directed officials to clear them immediately and identify a designated parking area for such vehicles.

Man ends life fearing arrest in POCSO case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A private firm employee, accused in a POCSO case, succumbed at a private hospital in Kengeri, after he allegedly consumed a cleaning liquid fearing arrest, on Monday.

The deceased, Ambarish, who allegedly sexually harassed a nine-year-old girl on October 8. The victim's parents filed a complaint. The accused who came to know about this consumed the liquid *(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)*

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, OCT. 14
RISE 06:10 SET 18:01
RISE 00:00 SET 13:16

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15
RISE 06:10 SET 18:01
RISE 00:56 SET 14:03

THURSDAY, OCT. 16
RISE 06:10 SET 18:00
RISE 01:52 SET 14:46

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	30	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortabe. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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Two held on charge of gang rape

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chickballapur police have arrested two persons for allegedly gang-raping a girl on Saturday.

The victim had come to Chikkaballapura town in search of a job and was returning home when the accused, identified as Sikandar Baba, allegedly offered to drop her home. The accused later took the victim to an isolated place near Manchenahalli and allegedly raped her. The accused later called his friend, Janardhanachari, who arrived at the spot and allegedly raped her too.

The duo later threatened the victim, stole her earrings, and dropped her near a petrol pump station before escaping.

Based on the complaint, the police arrested the accused on Sunday.

THE HINDU
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PIMPRI CHINCHWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CIVIL ENGINEERING 'A' HO DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE No: - CIVIL/AHO/27/01/2025-2026

Offers by way of e-tendering (Percentage) are invited by the Joint City Engineer, Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation from contractors in e-tendering system for following works.
1) The contractor shall quote his Percentage offer on the Cost of work excluding material testing charges as mentioned below.
2) The offer for work shall be exclusive of GST. The GST at the applicable rate shall be paid separately by PCMC for work.
3) For Following works Regarding the Royalty, the policy that the corporation determines will be binding on you.

Sr. No	Name of work	Estimated cost put to the Tender (Rs) (4+6)	Cost of Work excluding Material testing charges (Rs)	Royalty (Rs)	Testing Charges (Rs)	Earnest money (Rs)	Security Deposit (Rs)	Time limit in calendar Months	Cost of Tender Document with G.S.T. (Non Refundable) (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Strenghtening /Improvement of Roads from Kandoba Mal Chowk to Parshuram Chowk in Ward No. 14	15,41,88,230	15,39,87,955	15,780	2,00,275	7,70,941	77,09,412	24	37,430

Time table for the tenders shall be as follows:		
Online sale of tenders	:-	Date 14 / 10 / 2025 to Date 24 / 10 / 2025
Last date of submission of tenders	:-	Date 24 / 10 / 2025 up to 3.00 pm
Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time	:-	Date 16 / 10 / 2025 at 3.00 pm (In the Office of City Engineer First Floor, PCMC
Date of opening of tenders	:-	Date 27 /10 / 2025 at 3.00 Pm (if possible)

The Municipal Commissioner PCMC reserves the right to accept or reject any tender partially or completely without any reason thereof. The details of above works, such as Security Deposit, Earnest Money Deposit, Terms & Conditions of the Tender and Schedule of works, are available on web site www.pcmcindia.gov.in, http://mahatenders.gov.in.
In case of any technical problem related to the tender document, the same can be referred to the NIC email support-eproc@nic.in or on telephone numbers 0120-4200462, 0120-4001002, 0120-4001005,0120-627787.

ADVT No: 2025-26/243
No: ENGG/05/WS/114/2025
Date : 13/10/2025

Sd/-
(Makarand Nikam)
City Engineer,
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation,
Pimpri – 411 018.

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EDUCATIONAL
GENERAL

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, VENKATESULU Thamndra s/o Thamndra Ramanjineyulu, r/o: Aditi Serene Apt, No–105, Jai Hanuma Nilaya, BOB Clny, Jagruti Clny, J P Nagar 7th Phase, Blr–560078. Have changed my name as Venkatesh Thamandra. vide affidavit on 11/10/25.

I, AMARAVATHI W/o ASVATHAPPA, residing at Nagamangala, Mallanayakanahalli, Mulabagal, Kolar,Karnataka-563136 that, name of mine has been wrongly written as HAMSALEKHA H in my Aadhaar card. The actual name of mine is AMARAVATHI.

I, Ex.No.13964768M, Rank: Havaldar [AMC], Name: S.Sampath Kumar, S/o Selva Dass, R/at No.85, Handry's 1st Line, Coromandel Post, K G F-563118, KGF Taluk, Kolar Dist, Karnataka have changed my wife's name from Joyce Subathra to Joyce Subathra.S and Date of Birth from 10-10-1975 to 10-08-1974 vide affidavit dated 15-09-2025 sworn before Prl. Civil Judge & Addl. JMFC., KGF

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJESH s/o Thamandra Venkatesh, r/o: Aditi Serene Apt, No–105, Jai Hanuma Nilaya, BOB CLNY, Jagruti Clny, J P Nagar 7th Phase, Blr–560078. Have changed my name as Rajesh Thamandra vide affidavit on 11/10/25.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE MOTOR ACCIDENT CALIMS TRIBUNAL KOZHIKODE
Aboobacker K *(Petitioner)*
Diler **Ahmad Bademiya**
Aged 47 years, S/o.Babajan Bademiya, 81 Mounoor Road, Jannat Nagar Old, Hubli Hubli, Dharwad, Karnataka State, Pin 580 024 *(1st Respondent)*
That the 1st respondents in the above case take notice that, the above case has been posted for evidence on 23.10.2025. You are hereby requested to appear before the Hon'ble Court.
By order
KP. Anil Kumar
Counsel for petitioner.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
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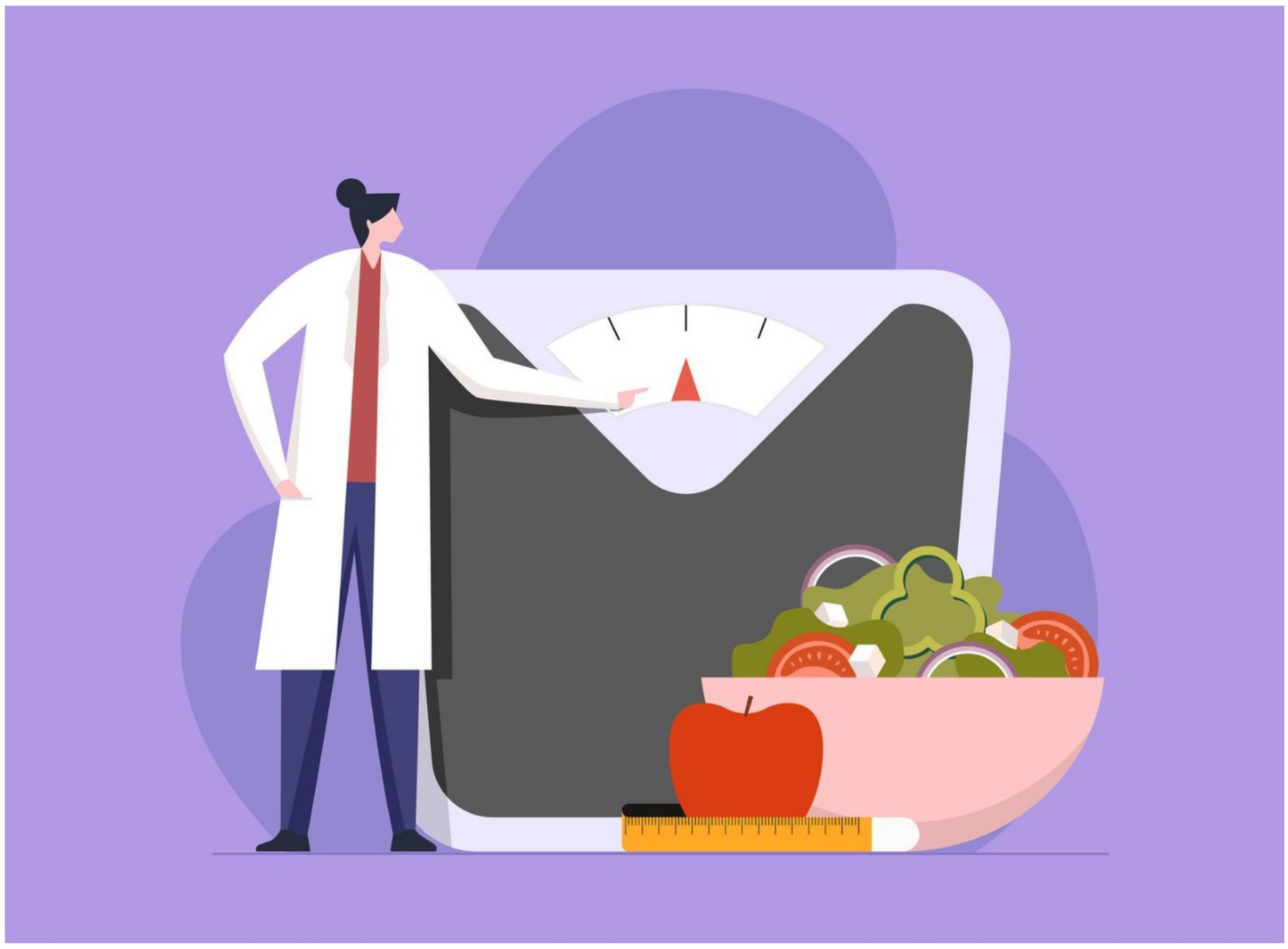

GETTY IMAGES

Counting calories: a brief history of how the unit of food was conceptualised

Science alone didn't make the calorie a household name. Fashion did. Physician Lulu Hunt Peters, in her blockbuster book, brilliantly linked calorie counting to the trendy 'flapper' ideal: a thin, boyish figure that symbolised a modern, liberated lifestyle

Jahnavi Phalkey

Ever glanced at the back of a food packet and seen that bold number staring back at you? Calories. For over a century, this single unit has dominated our conversations about food, health, and weight. We count them, burn them, and often, feel guilty about them. But have you ever wondered where this powerful little number came from? The story is a fascinating journey involving French chemists, German physiologists, American innovators, and surprising facts you won't find on any food label.

How 'calorie' came to be

The story begins not in a kitchen, but in a Parisian laboratory in the 1780s. The brilliant French chemist Antoine Lavoisier proposed a radical idea: breathing is a form of combustion, just like a candle burning. To prove it, he and his colleague Pierre-Simon Laplace built a device called an ice calorimeter, large enough to house a guinea pig. By measuring the heat the animal produced (by how much ice it melted), they linked the energy of life to the physics of heat. Soon after, the word "calorie," from Latin for heat, was coined to measure this energy.

For decades, the calorie remained a tool for physicists and engineers. Its journey into our diets began with a German baron, Justus von Liebig, who was concerned about malnourishment. In the 1840s, he developed a concentrated beef extract to provide cheap, energy-rich food for the poor: a product we know today as the Oxo cube. His students, inspired by his work, began meticulously measuring the energy the human body extracted from different foods. One of them, Max Rubner, established that proteins, fats, and carbohydrates could be measured by their equivalent heat value. This simple idea – that different foods could be compared through a single number – laid the groundwork for every diet fad to come.

The calorie truly went global when an American chemist, Wilbur Olin Atwater, who studied in Germany brought the science back to the U.S. In the 1890s, he published influential government bulletins that calculated the energy values of hundreds of foods. It was Atwater who established the capitalised "Calorie" (actually a kilocalorie, or 1,000 small calories) that we now see on U.S. food labels.

But science alone didn't make the calorie a household name. Fashion did. In the roaring twenties, physician Lulu Hunt Peters published her blockbuster book, *Diet and Health*. She brilliantly linked calorie counting to the trendy "flapper" ideal: a thin, boyish figure that symbolised a modern, liberated lifestyle. Suddenly, counting calories wasn't just for scientists; it was a chic tool for self-transformation. The ordinary act of eating was forever changed, governed by arithmetic.

However, the original motivation for counting calories wasn't personal health or beauty. It was about social control and efficiency. Early nutritionists studied prisoners, factory workers, and the impoverished to determine the minimum amount of fuel needed to keep them productive without causing food riots. The goal was to find the cheapest way to feed the masses in institutions such as schools, the military, and workhouses.

A question of justice – how to feed the hungry – was reframed as a problem of cost and management.

Looking beyond

Today, science is revealing the limits of this 18th-century idea. The simple model of "calories in, calories out" is being challenged. We now know that the numbers on food labels are averages, with significant margins of error. More importantly, our bodies are not simple furnaces. How we absorb energy depends on our unique genes, gut bacteria, and even the way food is cooked. Not all calories are created equal; 200 calories of almonds are processed very differently from 200 calories of fizzy drink.

The future of nutrition lies in a more personalised and complex understanding. Fields such as nutrigenomics are exploring how our individual genetic makeup interacts with the food we eat. We are slowly moving away from the simple act of counting and towards understanding the intricate relationships within our bodies.

Calories gave us a language to talk about food energy, but it's a language that's now due for an update. So, the next time you look at that number on a label, remember its rich and complicated history – a story of guinea pigs, beef cubes, and flappers – and know that we are far more complex than a simple calculation.

Jahnavi Phalkey is the founding director, Science Gallery Bengaluru.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the Cuban Missile Crisis

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The Cuban Missile Crisis lasted from October 16 to 28, 1962. It began when U.S. spy planes photographed Soviet nuclear missile sites being built in Cuba. This was because Fidel Castro had agreed to host Soviet missiles as a deterrent against another U.S. invasion after the failed ___ __ ____ attack in 1961. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 2

The crisis was resolved when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev agreed to withdraw the missiles from Cuba in exchange for the U.S. pledging to not do what?

QUESTION 3

While it wasn't known at the time, U.S. President John F. Kennedy — for his country's part in the missile crisis — secretly agreed to remove the 15 Jupiter missiles his government had installed in _____ by March 1962, in the face of stiff opposition from Kennedy's senior advisors. Fill in the blank with the name of the country.

QUESTION 4

One of the more popular outcomes of the Cuban Missile Crisis was the nuclear _____, a direct and secure communications link between the Pentagon and the Kremlin. While it's also been called the "red telephone", it was never a telephone: it was first a teleprinter, than a fax machine, and since 2008 a computer link supporting a form of email. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5

The crisis prompted American, British, and Soviet negotiators to ramp up their efforts, and thus they came up with the Partial Test Ban Treaty, which would prevent _____ nuclear testing. While Khrushchev was keen to defuse the crisis, he was concerned that this ban would give the U.S. the upper hand because the USSR was better versed with this form of testing. Fill in the blank.

Visual question:

The name of this gemstone is also the name sometimes given to the scandal involving a KGB member who defected to the U.S. in 1961 and who was key to the U.S. government uncovering the Soviets' missile build-up in Cuba. Name the scandal.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In 2025, four faculty of this U.S. institution have won the award in a single year. **Ans: University of California**
2. The latest category of the Nobel was established by this entity. **Ans: Economic sciences; Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank)**
3. The last time there was no Nobel Prize for this category was in 1972. **Ans: Peace**
4. This category has had the most laureates with 232 since inception. **Ans: Medicine**
5. The last individual to win a second Nobel prize. It was in this category. **Ans: K. Barry Sharpless in Chemistry (2001 and 2022)**
6. The common link between the five Peace laureates. **Ans: They were all under arrest at the time of the award of the Nobel Prize**
7. The surname of the only siblings to have won the Nobel Prize, with one sharing the 1969 Economics prize and the other the 1973 Medicine prize. **Ans: Tinbergen**
Visual: Identify this man. **Ans: Le Duc Tho**
Early Birds: Sujith. B| Gargi Ahirrao| Tito Shiladitya| Sukdev Shet| Tamal Biswas

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

Upendran

"How is Chennai?"

"Terrible. It is hot and sticky. And what's worse, there's an acute power shortage right now."

"Power shortage! I believe that's a chronic problem in Chennai."

"I don't know if it's a chronic problem, but right now it's an acute problem. In some areas, on some nights, there is no power for hours together."

"Anyway, what's the difference between 'chronic' and 'acute'?"

"When you say something is a chronic problem, it means that it stays or lingers for a long time. For example, there is a chronic shortage of housing in Bombay."

"Meaning, finding a house in Bombay is always a problem?"

"You could say that!"

"There's a chronic water problem in Hyderabad. Can I say that?"

"You can! Here's another example. My neighbour has a chronic knee problem."

"Tell me, what does 'acute' mean?"

"When you say there's an acute power shortage in Chennai, it means there's a severe shortage of power. This severe shortage may have come about all of a sudden and may last only temporarily. Whereas when you say that something is a 'chronic' problem…"

"… it's a problem that has existed for some time."

"Exactly! My neighbour has a chronic knee problem. The pain becomes acute on the days it rains."

"Last year my father's company made a lot of money. During the past two months they've had acute financial problems."

"Excellent example. My friend felt acutely embarrassed when he slipped on the banana peel and fell."

"Meaning he felt extremely embarrassed?"

"Right!"

"Gopa is a chronic complainer. He always has an inquiry about everything you say."

"Not an 'inquiry', but a 'query' about everything you say."

"A what?"

"Q..u..e..r..y. The 'ue' is pronounced like the 'ea' in 'ear', 'fear' and 'dear'. The 'i' in the second syllable is pronounced like the 'i' in 'fit', 'pit' and 'bit'."

"What's the difference between 'query' and 'enquiry'?"

"When you make a 'query', what you are basically doing is asking a question."

"A single question?"

"Yes. One of our clients had a query and we sent him to the Manager."

"When our Principal announced the new rules and regulations, there were several queries from concerned parents."

"The new Minister was unable to answer the query."

"That's nothing unusual. You become a Minister to make money."

"And once you make your money there'll be an enquiry."

"What does 'enquiry' mean?"

"When you enquire about something, you ask for information about something. So you could end up asking one question or more than one question."

Published in The Hindu on June 2, 1998.

Word of the day

Languish:
lose vigour, health, or flesh, as through grief; have a desire for something or someone who is not present; become feeble

Synonyms: pine away, waste, ache, yearn, fade

Usage: *The prisoner has been languishing for years in the dungeon.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/languishpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /læŋ.gwɪʃ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Devadasi community submits letters to govt. over gaps in survey

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The representations, among other things, call for removal of the age restriction and inclusion all Devadasis in the survey. FILE PHOTO

In the light of complaints from the Devadasi community about the ongoing re-survey of Devadasis in the State, the Karnataka Vimuktha Devadasi Mahila Mathu Makkala Vedike and the Centre for Study of Inclusion at the National Law School of India University have made representations to the government to rectify the gaps in the survey.

The letters, addressed to the Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development, call for the removal of the age restriction and inclusion all Devadasis in the survey, deployment of adequate and well-trained enumerators, uniform State-wide survey guidelines, door-to-door surveys for women with health issues, and extension of survey timeline, among others.

Issues flagged

The letters were drafted after a meeting of Devadasi women and their children on October 12 at Hosapete, during which several of these issues were flagged.

While field reports suggest the omission of women below the age of 45, which the community members feel is limiting, officials take a different view.

"The practice was abolished in 1984. So, there is no question of age limit arising. Anyone who is left out has the option of going to the Deputy Commissioner or tahsildar's office and giving a representation," said Mahesh Babu, managing director at Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation, when asked about the age limit.

However, activists and community members feel the criterion is restrictive and does not reflect the ground reality, as younger Devadasi women and those who entered the system informally after 1984 continue to exist in several districts.

"Hence, we strongly recommend that the age limit be removed, and all living Devadasi women, irrespective of age, be included in the survey to ensure comprehensive documentation and recognition," reads the letter from NLSIU, which also highlights the risk of eligible women being left out due to lack of widespread awareness campaigns.

Inconsistencies

According to the community members and activists, in several districts, district-level committees have not been formally informed about the survey, affecting the transparency and credibility of the process. Yet another issue flagged is the requirement of multiple documents from respondents causing delays.

"Each taluk office asks for different documents and makes the applicants, who are already coming from far-off places, run from pillar to post. Departments don't coordinate with one another to issue the documents on time," said Chandrashekar R.V. from the Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion, NLSIU.

He noted that multiple instances of inadequate facilities and harassment of the community members at survey centres came up during the meeting.

Number of enumerators

Pointing out that even in districts with a high population of Devadasi women, only one enumerator has been assigned, the letter from Karnataka Vimuktha Devadasi Mahila Matthu Makkala Vedike calls for the deployment of enumerators proportionate to the size of the district and the number of respondents, so as to avoid delays and incomplete coverage.

Mr. Babu said around 14,000 people have so far participated in the survey, slated to be completed by November 21.

Salesman held for harassing doctor in KSRTC bus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sanjay Nagar Police have arrested a 32-year-old salesman for allegedly sexually harassing a city-based lady doctor while travelling in a KSRTC bus.

Based on the complaint filed by the victim, the police arrested the accused, identified as Firoz Khan, 32, a salesperson from R.T. Nagar, charging him under Section 354 (assault or use of criminal force on a woman with intent to outrage her modesty) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. He was questioned and later released on station bail.

According to the police, the incident occurred on Thursday after she had boarded the bus at around 6 p.m.

The woman immediately informed the driver and called her brother, who alerted the police through helpline '112'.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
BENGALURU DIVISION

Re-Engagement of Retired Staff
Applications invited from retired railway employees for contractual re-engagement

Railway Board's Letter No. E(NG)11/2024/RG-4(9) dated 15.10.2024. The re-engagement scheme will remain valid upto 14.10.2026 or upto posts are filled by regular selections, whichever is earlier.

Categories of Posts

Engineering Department:
SSE (P. Way & Works), JE, Sr. Tech (Welder & Blacksmith)

Electrical Genl Department:
JE (AC, TL & P), Sr. Tech (Power, TLD & AC)

Electrical TRS Department:
SSE TRS

Electrical TRO Department:
CLI, CRC, PRC, TLC

Electrical TRD Department:
SSE TRD

Electrical Ministerial Department:
Office Superintendent

Mechanical C&W Department: Tech - I (C&W), Tech-II (C&W), Tech - III (C&W)

Mechanical DSL Shed Department:
Tech - I & III (M-Wing), Tech - III (E-Wing)

Mechanical Ministerial Department:
Office Superintendent

Operating Department:
Goods Train Manager, Station Master, Section Controller, Points man

Commercial Department:
CS, CCCTS

MDDTI:
Loco Instructor

Who Can Apply

- Retired Railway employees only
- 'Good' grading in last 5 APARs
- Medically fit for the post
- Not retired under LARGESS
- Not removed/dismissed Under DAR
- Maximum Age Limit - 65 years

Screening & Selection

Applications will be screened by a committee. Selection depends on Eligibility, Suitability and Medical fitness.

Benefits

Stationary duty, Flexible Day shift, Specific station locations.

How to Apply

Online: Applicant can submit application through the Google Form available at
https://forms.gle/tqzSQ6GspRs4jwvu8
Offline: application available at
https://swr.indianrailways.gov.in
->About Us > Divisions > Bangalore Division > Personnel Branch > Notifications

Apply to
Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer,
Divisional Railway Manager's Office,
Bengaluru - 560023. Contact: 9731666622

PUB/557/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025

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Canara HSBC LIFE INSURANCE

CANARA HSBC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

(Please scan the QR code to view the RHP)

Our Company was incorporated on September 25, 2007 as 'Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company Limited', a public limited company under the Companies Act, 1956 and was granted a certificate of incorporation by the Assistant Registrar of Companies, Karnataka, and received a certificate of commencement of business dated January 28, 2008 from the Assistant Registrar of Companies, Karnataka. A fresh certificate of incorporation was granted on March 1, 2013 by the Registrar of Companies, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Haryana at New Delhi (now known as Registrar of Companies, Delhi and Haryana (the "**RoC**")), pursuant to change in the registered office of our Company from Karnataka to Delhi. Subsequently, pursuant to special resolution passed by our Shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting dated June 3, 2022, the name of our Company was changed to 'Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited' and a fresh certificate of incorporation, consequent upon change of name, was issued to our Company by the RoC on June 15, 2022. For further details in relation to changes in name and the Registered Office of our Company, see "***History and Certain Corporate Matters - Brief History of our Company***" and ***"History and Certain Corporate Matters - Changes in Registered Office***", each on page 313 of the red herring prospectus dated October 4, 2025 filed with the RoC (the **"Red Herring Prospectus"** or **"RHP"**).

Registered Office: 8th Floor, Unit No. 808-814, Ambadeep Building, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Connaught Place, Central Delhi, New Delhi 110 001, Delhi, India
Corporate Office: 35th Floor, Tower 1, M3M International Financial Centre, Golf Course Extension Road, Sector 66, Gurugram 122 002, Haryana, India | **Contact Person:** Vatsala Sameer, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer
Tel: +91 0124 4506761; **E-mail:** investor@canarahsbclife.in; **Website:** www.canarahsbclife.com | **Corporate Identity Number:** U66010DL2007PLC248825; **IRDAI Registration Number:** 136

OUR PROMOTERS: CANARA BANK AND HSBC INSURANCE (ASIA-PACIFIC) HOLDINGS LIMITED

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO 237,500,000 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF CANARA HSBC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED ("OUR COMPANY" OR THE "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹[●] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A SECURITIES PREMIUM OF ₹[●] PER EQUITY SHARE) (THE "OFFER PRICE") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹[●] MILLION THROUGH AN OFFER FOR SALE (THE "OFFER") OF UP TO 137,750,000 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH AGGREGATING UP TO ₹[●] MILLION BY CANARA BANK AND UP TO 4,750,000 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH AGGREGATING UP TO ₹[●] MILLION BY HSBC INSURANCE (ASIA-PACIFIC) HOLDINGS LIMITED (TOGETHER, THE "PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDERS") AND OF UP TO 95,000,000 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH AGGREGATING UP TO ₹[●] MILLION BY PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK (THE "INVESTOR SELLING SHAREHOLDER" AND COLLECTIVELY WITH THE PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDERS, REFERRED TO AS THE "SELLING SHAREHOLDERS", AND EACH INDIVIDUALLY, AS A "SELLING SHAREHOLDER" AND SUCH OFFER FOR SALE OF EQUITY SHARES BY THE SELLING SHAREHOLDERS, THE "OFFER FOR SALE" AND SUCH EQUITY SHARES, THE "OFFERED SHARES").

THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO 1,550,000 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH, AGGREGATING UP TO ₹[●] MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO [●]% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL), FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES (THE "EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION"). OUR COMPANY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BRLMS, HAS OFFERED A DISCOUNT OF UP TO [●]% TO THE OFFER PRICE (EQUIVALENT OF ₹10.00 PER EQUITY SHARE) TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION ("EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT"). THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION IS HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "NET OFFER". THE OFFER AND THE NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE [●]% AND [●]%, RESPECTIVELY, OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY.

DETAILS OF THE OFFER FOR SALE BY SELLING SHAREHOLDERS AND WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION PER EQUITY SHARE			
NAME OF THE SELLING SHAREHOLDER	**TYPE OF SELLING SHAREHOLDER**	**NUMBER OF SHARES OFFERED / AMOUNT**	**WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUSITION PER EQUITY SHARE (IN ₹)***
Canara Bank	Promoter Selling Shareholder	Up to 137,750,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million	10.00
HSBC Insurance (Asia-Pacific) Holdings Limited	Promoter Selling Shareholder	Up to 4,750,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million	15.06
Punjab National Bank	Investor Selling Shareholder	Up to 95,000,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million	10.00

**As certified by Bhatia and Bhatia, Chartered Accountants and Brahmayya & Co., Chartered Accountants, pursuant to their certificate dated October 4,2025.*

PRICE BAND: ₹100.00 TO ₹106.00 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH.

THE FLOOR PRICE IS 10.00 TIMES OF THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES AND THE CAP PRICE IS 10.60 TIMES OF THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES.	WEIGHTED AVERAGE RETURN ON NET WORTH FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2025, 2024 AND 2023 IS 7.86%.
THE PRICE TO EARNINGS RATIO BASED ON DILUTED EPS FOR FISCAL 2025 AT THE FLOOR PRICE IS 81.30 TIMES AND AT THE CAP PRICE IS 86.18 TIMES AS COMPARED TO THE AVERAGE INDUSTRY PEER GROUP P/E RATIO OF 79.37 TIMES FOR FISCAL 2025.	BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 140 EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 140 EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER.
	A DISCOUNT OF ₹10.00 PER EQUITY SHARE IS BEING OFFERED TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION.

BID/OFFER PERIOD — BID/OFFER CLOSES TODAY#

#UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5.00 p.m. on the Bid/Offer Closing Date.

We offer a comprehensive range of life insurance products tailored for both individual and group (i.e., companies, businesses or organizations) customers. Our offerings primarily include saving and endowment plans, term (pure protection) plans, retirement solutions, group credit life and protection plans and the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations.

The Equity Shares will get listed on the main board of NSE and BSE. NSE shall be the Designated Stock Exchange.

QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Net Offer | Non-Institutional Portion: Not less than 15% of the Net Offer | Retail Portion: Not less than 35% of the Net Offer

Employee Reservation Portion: Up to 1,550,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 10 each aggregating up to ₹[●] million

IN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION, POTENTIAL INVESTORS MUST ONLY RELY ON THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE RED HERRING PROSPECTUS AND THE TERMS OF THE OFFER, INCLUDING THE RISKS INVOLVED AND NOT RELY ON ANY OTHER EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFFER AVAILABLE IN ANY MANNER. IN RELATION TO PRICE BAND, POTENTIAL INVESTORS SHOULD ONLY REFER TO THE PRE-OFFER AND PRICE BAND ADVERTISEMENT DATED OCTOBER 6, 2025 READ WITH THE CORRIGENDUM DATED OCTOBER 9, 2025 ("PRE-OFFER AND PRICE BAND AD") AND SHOULD NOT RELY ON ANY MEDIA ARTICLES / REPORTS IN RELATION TO THE VALUATION OF THE COMPANY AS THESE ARE NOT ENDORSED, PUBLISHED OR CONFIRMED EITHER BY THE COMPANY OR THE BRLMS.

In accordance with the recommendation of committee of Independent Directors of our Company, pursuant to the resolution dated October 6, 2025, the above provided price band is justified based on quantitative factors/ KPIs disclosed in the "Basis for Offer Price" section on page 129 of the RHP vis-a-vis the weighted average cost of acquisition ("WACA") of primary and secondary transaction(s) as applicable, disclosed in the "Basis for Offer Price" on page 129 of the RHP and provided below in the advertisement.

RISK TO INVESTORS

For details, refer to the "Risk Factors" section on page 36 of the RHP.

1. Risk of termination or adverse change in our bancassurance arrangements and specifically our distribution agreement with Canara Bank or HSBC India.

Bancassurance represents our largest distribution channel. We have non-exclusive distribution agreements with Canara Bank, HSBC India, seven regional rural banks and other bancassurance relationships. The following table sets forth certain information relating to the contribution of our top 1, top 2 and top 10 bancassurance partners to our new business premium for the periods indicated:

Particulars	Three months ended June 30,				Fiscal					
	2025		2024		2025		2024		2023	
	New Business Premium	Percentage of total New Business Premium	New Business Premium	Percentage of total New Business Premium	New Business Premium	Percentage of total New Business Premium	New Business Premium	Percentage of total New Business Premium	New Business Premium	Percentage of total New Business Premium
	(₹ in million)	(%)	(₹ in million)	(%)	(₹ in million)	(%)	(₹ in million)	(%)	(₹ in million)	(%)
Top 1 (Canara Bank)	6,097.94	73.16%	5,334.27	74.85%	22,032.97	70.58%	17,791.51	61.33%	16,304.93	43.87%
Top 2 (Canara Bank and HSBC India)	6,848.66	82.17%	5,965.11	83.70%	25,089.94	80.38%	21,014.16	72.44%	19,729.96	53.09%
Top 10 (Canara Bank, HSBC India and Eight Regional Rural Banks) (1)(2)	7,675.96	92.09%	6,509.88	91.35%	26,979.74	86.43%	22,678.91	78.18%	21,185.61	57.01%
Other Bancassurance Relationships	19.31	0.23%	25.76	0.36%	200.78	0.64%	156.83	0.54%	73.98	0.20%
Bancassurance channel	**7,695.27**	**92.33%**	**6,535.64**	**91.71%**	**27,180.52**	**87.07%**	**22,835.74**	**78.71%**	**21,259.59**	**57.20%**

Any regulatory changes affecting the bancassurance business and distribution of insurance products by banks could adversely affect our arrangements with bancassurance partners or restrict our ability to further grow our business through the bancassurance channel, and may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

(1). For Fiscals 2025, 2024, 2023 and three months ended June 30, 2024, the eight regional rural banks comprised (i) Karnataka Gramin Bank; (ii) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank; (iii) Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank; (iv) Kerala Gramin Bank; (v) Tripura Gramin Bank; (vi) Himachal Pradesh Gramin Bank; (vii) Tamil Nadu Grama Bank; and (viii) Madhya Pradesh Gramin Bank.

(2)With effect from May 1, 2025 (i) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank and Karnataka Gramin Bank merged and the merged entity has been renamed Karnataka Grameena Bank; and (ii) Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank, together with certain other regional banks, merged to form a new entity named Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank. Consequently, for the three months ended June 30, 2025, the new business premium attributed to the top 10 bancassurance partners reflects the impact of these mergers, i.e., Canara Bank, HSBC India and seven regional banks.

2. Adverse variation in persistency metrics or concentrated surrenders by customers may materially affect our financial performance and shareholder value.

Persistency metrics in the context of a life insurance company are used to measure how well a company retains its policyholders over time. Factors such as regulatory policy changes, capital market volatility, diminishing trust in our Company, and weakened financial standings of customers due to adverse economic conditions can result in policy discontinuations, thus reducing persistency.

The following table sets forth our persistency ratios (by premium, excluding single premium) for our individual products for the periods indicated:

Particulars	Three months ended June 30,		Fiscal		
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2023
	(%)				
13th month	84.25%	82.73%	82.54%	80.73%	75.33%
25th month	73.57%	70.32%	71.53%	68.45%	66.03%
37th month	65.67%	64.45%	64.08%	63.01%	65.13%
49th month	62.16%	64.36%	60.97%	64.23%	63.25%
61st month	58.20%	57.00%	57.74%	55.43%	51.97%

Any deviation from our expected persistency ratios would have an adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

3. Exposure to legal and regulatory changes or non-compliance may materially affect business operations, financial performance, and investor value

Our company is subject to a wide range of detailed and evolving laws, regulations, and guidelines issued by the IRDAI and other authorities. These include rules governing registration of corporate agents, restrictions on investments, requirements for issue of capital and transfer of shares, limits on foreign investment, standards for solvency ratios, caps on commissions and management expenses, regulations for unit-linked and non-linked insurance products, and obligations to serve rural and social sectors, among others.

If new laws or regulations are introduced by the IRDAI or other authorities covering areas such as product rules, requirements for agents and intermediaries, distribution processes, or financial conditions, this could increase our compliance and operational costs. Such changes may impact our business performance, financial results, and cash flows.

4. The determination of the Price Band is based on various factors and assumptions and the Offer Price of the Equity Shares, price to earnings ratio based on the Offer Price of the Equity Shares may not be indicative of the market price of the Equity Shares after the Offer.

Our price to earnings ("**P/E**") ratio based on diluted EPS for Fiscal 2025 is 81.30 and 86.18 times at the lower and upper end of the Price Band, respectively. The average P/E of the listed peer group of our Company is 79.37 for Fiscal 2025 while our Company's P/E was at a premium of 8.58% at the higher end of the Price Band and premium of 2.43% at the lower end of the Price Band. Price and ratios may not be indicative of the market price of the Company on listing or thereafter.

5. Company is subject to IRDAI inspections and has previously incurred a penalty of ₹3.10 million.

In past during an onsite general inspection of one of our brokers conducted by the IRDAI from October 21, 2024 to October 25, 2024, the IRDAI had made an observation that Company violated certain provision of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Outsourcing of Activities by Indian Insurers) Regulations, 2017 in relation to certain outsourcing services provided by the broker to our Company. While the Company has submitted a response to such observations by way of a letter dated January 31, 2025, our Company has not received a response or any further communication from the IRDAI in this regard.

The IRDAI by its order dated December 12, 2014, decided on 19 charges of compliances under IRDAI regulations, guidelines and rules and, among others, directed the Company to take corrective steps, strengthen our processes/systems and internal controls in accordance with relevant regulations and strictly comply with the relevant IRDAI regulations, guidelines and rules. Further on two of the 19 charges, the IRDAI imposed a total penalty of ₹3.10 million on us.

6. Solvency ratio has declined to 200.42% in the three months ended June 30, 2025.

Indian laws and regulations require our Company to maintain a specified level of solvency.

Our solvency ratio for the three months ended June 30, 2025, June 30, 2024 and Fiscals 2025, 2024 and 2023 was 200.42%, 223.82%, 205.82%, 212.83% and 251.81%, respectively against the regulatory requirement of at least 150.00%.

The table below sets forth our solvency ratio for the periods indicated:

Particulars	Three months ended June 30,		Fiscal		
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2023
Solvency Ratio (%)	200.42%	223.82%	205.82%	212.83%	251.81%

If we do not meet solvency ratio requirements, we may be subject to regulatory actions and could be forced to raise additional capital.

7. Loss or non-renewal of Canara Bank and HSBC Group Management Services Limited logo licence agreements could negatively affect our business.

8. Our Restated Financial Information and examination report in the Red Herring Prospectus were provided by our Erstwhile Joint Statutory Auditors, who were replaced by Joint Statutory Auditors with effect from September 25, 2025.

9. Risk associated with generating negative cash flows from operating activities in the past.

For the three months ended June 30, 2024, our Company has generated negative cash flows from operating activities primarily due to high withdrawal payouts from fund-based group products and partial withdrawals from ULIP policies. The following table sets forth certain information relating to operating cash flows for the periods indicated:

(₹ in million)

	Three months ended June 30		Fiscal		
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2023
Net cash flow from/ (used in) operating activities	3,840.22	(13,507.04)	12,078.07	23,101.12	25,924.96

If we fail to sustain or increase profitability, our business, results of operations and cash flows could be adversely affected.

10. Risk associated with our inability to adequately hedge the risks arising out of our guaranteed return products.

Certain of our non-participating products provide a minimum guaranteed return that is payable on death or maturity. The following table reflects certain metrics in relation to our guaranteed return policies, as at the dates indicated:

Particulars	As at June 30,		As at March 31,		
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2023
Guaranteed return policies in force	490,490	454,714	483,951	444,367	373,980
Guaranteed return policies as a % of total policies in force (in %)	43.63%	45.08%	44.15%	45.21%	42.89%
Reserves for guaranteed return policies (₹ in million)	1,00,890.20	76,669.16	96,988.42	73,161.18	51,666.33
Guaranteed return policies reserves as proportion of total reserves (in %)	24.21%	21.43%	24.54%	20.53%	18.10%

Any oversight in these hedging strategies, such as misestimating future interest rate movements, incorrect contract specifications or failure to align hedging activities with actual exposures could expose us to heightened financial risks.

11. Risk relating to significant technical complexity involved in embedded value calculations.

The process of calculating embedded value is highly technical and complex. If key assumptions alter or if actual experiences deviate from these assumptions, the estimates in the Embedded Value Reports might differ considerably. The Embedded Value Report titled "Reporting Actuary's Report on Indian Embedded Value as at 31 March 2025" read with the "Reporting Actuary's Supplementary Report on Indian Embedded Value as at 30 June 2025", each dated September 25, 2025 have been prepared by the Independent Actuary, Kunj Behari Maheshwari, Partner at Willis Towers Watson Actuarial Advisory LLP, in compliance with the Actuarial Practice Standard 10 ("APS 10") issued by the Institute of Actuaries of India. This method is distinct from the methodologies applied in other areas, such as the European, traditional, or market consistent embedded value methods, and may not align with the methodologies adopted by other insurance companies. We cannot assure you that future experiences will match the assumptions made in the Embedded Value Report.

12. Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for Financial Years 2025, 2024 and 2023 is 7.86%.

13. Average cost of acquisition of specified securities for our Promoters and the Selling Shareholders

Name of the Shareholder	Number of Equity Shares acquired	Average cost of acquisition per Equity Share (in ₹)(1)
Promoters(2)		
Canara Bank	484,500,000(3)	10.00
HSBC Insurance (Asia-Pacific) Holdings Limited	247,000,000	15.06
Selling Shareholders		
Punjab National Bank	218,500,000(4)	10.00

(1)As certified by Bhatia and Bhatia, Chartered Accountants and Brahmayya & Co., Chartered Accountants, pursuant to their certificate dated October 4, 2025.

(2)Also Selling Shareholders.

(3)Including one Equity Share of face value of ₹10 each held by each of Arun Kumar, Rajesh Kumar Singh and Kanimozhi (each as first holder) and two Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each held by Santanu Kumar Majumdar (as first holder), each jointly with Canara Bank (as second holder) beneficial interest of which lies with Canara Bank.

(4)Equity Shares were originally allotted to Oriental Bank of Commerce. Pursuant to the notification dated March 4, 2020, issued by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce was amalgamated with Punjab National Bank, with effect from April 1, 2020.

14. Details of price at which specified securities were acquired in the last three years preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus by our Promoters, members of the Promoter Group, the Selling Shareholders or Shareholder(s) with rights to nominate Director(s) or other special rights

Name of Shareholder	Date of acquisition/allotment of the Equity Shares	Number of Equity Shares acquired	Face value (in ₹)	Nature of acquisition	Acquisition price per Equity Share (in ₹)(3)
Promoters(1)(2)					
No shares have been acquired by our Promoters in the last three years preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus					
Promoter Group					
No shares have been acquired by the members of the Promoter Group in the last three years preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus					
Selling Shareholders(2)					
No shares have been acquired by the Selling Shareholders(2) in the last three years preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus					

(1) Also Selling Shareholders.

(2)Also Shareholders with the right to nominate directors or any other special rights.

(3)As certified by Bhatia and Bhatia, Chartered Accountants and Brahmayya & Co., Chartered Accountants, pursuant to their certificate dated October 4,2025.

15. Weighted average cost of acquisition for all Equity Shares transacted over the preceding three years, 18 months and one year preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus:

Period	Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition (WACA) (in ₹)(1)	Cap Price is 'X' times the WACA(1)	Range of acquisition price: lowest price – highest price (in ₹)(1)
Last three years	Nil	Nil	Nil
Last 18 months	Nil	Nil	Nil
Last one year	Nil	Nil	Nil

(1)As certified by Bhatia and Bhatia, Chartered Accountants and Brahmayya & Co., Chartered Accountants, pursuant to their certificate dated October 4,2025.

For further details, please refer to ***"Offer Document Summary-Weighted average cost of acquisition for all Equity Shares transacted over the preceding three years, 18 months and one year preceding the date of this Red Herring Prospectus"*** on page 28 of the RHP.

Continued on next page...

...continued from previous page.

16. The 5 BRLMs associated with the Offer have handled 98 public Issues in the past three financial years, out of which 32 Issues closed below the Offer Price on listing date:

Name of BRLMs	Total Issues	Issues closed below IPO price as on listing date
SBI Capital Markets Limited	21	6
BNP Paribas	2	1
HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited[1]	3	2
JM Financial Limited	32	9
Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited	15	6
Common Issues handled by the BRLMs[2]	25	8
Total	**98**	**32**

*[1]In compliance with the proviso to Regulation 21A(1) of the SEBI Merchant Bankers Regulations and Regulation 23(3) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited ("**HSBC Securities**") will be involved only in marketing of the Offer. HSBC Securities has signed the due diligence certificate and has been disclosed as a BRLM for the Offer.*

[2]Issues handled where there are common BRLMs.

Additional Information for Investors

1. The Promoters or members of promoter group have not undertaken any transaction of shares aggregating up to 1% or more of the paid-up Equity Share capital of the Company from the DRHP filing date.
2. The aggregate Equity Shareholding and percentage of the pre-Offer paid-up Equity Share capital and post-Offer Equity Shareholding, of our Promoter, members of our Promoter Group and additional top 10 Shareholders, as applicable of our Company are set forth below:

S. No.	Pre-Offer shareholding as at the date of the Pre-Offer and Price Band Ad			Post-Offer shareholding as at Allotment			
				At the lower end of the Price Band (₹100.00)		At the upper end of the Price Band (₹106.00)	
	Shareholders	Number of Equity Shares[1]	Shareholding (in %)[1]	Number of Equity Shares[1][2]	Shareholding (in %)[1][2]	Number of Equity Shares[1][2]	Shareholding (in %)[1][2]
Promoters							
1.	Canara Bank[3]	484,500,000	51.00	346,750,000	36.50	346,750,000	36.50
2.	HSBC Insurance (Asia-Pacific) Holdings Limited	247,000,000	26.00	242,250,000	25.50	242,250,000	25.50
Promoter Group							
1.	Not applicable						
Top 10 Shareholders (other than Promoters)							
1.	Punjab National Bank[4]	218,500,000	23.00	123,500,000	13.00	123,500,000	13.00

[1]Assuming full subscription in the Offer. The post-Offer shareholding details as at Allotment will be based on the actual subscription and the Offer Price and updated in the Prospectus, subject to finalization of the Basis of Allotment.
[2]Includes all transfers of Equity Shares by existing shareholders after the date of Pre-Offer and Price Band Ad until the date of the Prospectus.
[3]Including one Equity Share of face value of ₹10 each held by each of Arun Kumar, Rajesh Kumar Singh and Kanimozhi (each as first holder) and two Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each held by Santanu Kumar Majumdar (as first holder), each jointly with Canara Bank (as second holder) beneficial interest of which lies with Canara Bank.
[4]Equity Shares were originally allotted to Oriental Bank of Commerce. Pursuant to the notification dated March 4, 2020, issued by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce was amalgamated with Punjab National Bank, with effect from April 1, 2020.

BASIS FOR OFFER PRICE

The "*Basis for Offer Price*" section on page 129 of the RHP has been updated with the above price band.
Please refer to the websites of the BRLMs:www.sbicaps.com, www.bnpparibas.co.in, www.business.hsbc.co.in, www.jmfl.com and www.motilaloswalgroup.com
You may scan the QR code for accessing the website of www.sbicaps.com.

ASBA# Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!

#Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") is a better way of applying to Issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA.

Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

UPI - Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors and Non-Institutional Investor applying in public issues where the application amount is up to ₹500,000, applying through Registered Brokers, Syndicate, CDPs & RTAs. Retail Individual Investors and Non-Institutional Investors also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. Bidders must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021 read with press release dated September 17, 2021. CBDT circular no. 7 of 2022, dated March 30, 2022, read with press release dated March 28, 2023.

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor Investors. UPI may be availed by (i) Retail Individual Investors in the Retail Portion; (ii) Non-Institutional Investors with an application size of up to ₹500,000 in the Non-Institutional Portion. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in the Bid Cum Application Form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "***Offer Procedure***" on page 552 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India ("**AIBI**") and Stock Exchanges and in the General Information Document. The Bid Cum Application Form and the Abridged Prospectus can be downloaded from the websites of the Stock Exchanges and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=35 and https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes &intmId=43, respectively as updated from time to time. For the list of UPI apps and banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI Mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. Axis Bank Limited and ICICI Bank Limited have been appointed as the Sponsor Bank for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of SEBI ICDR Master circular. For Offer related queries, please contact the BRLMs on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll-free number: 18001201740 and mail Id: ipo.upi@npci.org.in.

THE EQUITY SHARES OF OUR COMPANY WILL GET LISTED ON MAIN BOARD PLATFORM OF NSE AND BSE.

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision of the Price Band, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar unforeseen circumstances, our Company may, in consultation with the BRLMs, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of one Working Day, subject to the Bid/ Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, will be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members and by intimation to the Self-Certified Syndicate Banks ("**SCSBs**"), other Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Banks, as applicable.

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process, in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("**SCRR**") read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations and in compliance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, wherein, in terms of Regulation 32(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, not more than 50% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("**QIBs**", and such portion, the "**QIB Portion**"), provided that our Company may, in consultation with the BRLMs, allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations (the "**Anchor Investor Portion**"), of which one-third shall be reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations. In the event of under-subscription or non-allocation in the Anchor Investor Portion, the balance Equity Shares shall be added to the remaining QIB Portion ("**Net QIB Portion**"). Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis only to Mutual Funds, and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. However, if the aggregate demand from the Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the Net QIB Portion, the balance Equity Shares available for allocation will be added to the remaining QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to QIBs. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Non-Institutional Bidders ("**NIBs**") in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price, out of which (a) one-third of such portion shall be reserved for Bidders with application size of more than ₹200,000 and up to ₹1,000,000; and (b) two-thirds of such portion shall be reserved for Bidders with application size of more than ₹1,000,000, provided that the unsubscribed portion in either of such sub-categories may be allocated to Bidders in the other sub-category of Non-Institutional Bidders; and not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders ("**RIBs**") in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each will be allocated on a proportionate basis to Eligible Employees applying under the Employee Reservation Portion, subject to valid Bids received from them at or above the Offer Price (net of Employee Discount, if any, as applicable). All potential Bidders (except Anchor Investors) are mandatorily required to utilize the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("**ASBA**") process by providing details of their respective ASBA accounts and UPI ID in case of UPI Bidders using the UPI Mechanism (defined herein), as applicable, pursuant to which their corresponding Bid Amount will be blocked by the SCSBs or by the Sponsor Banks under the UPI Mechanism, as the case may be, to the extent of the respective Bid Amounts. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Offer through the ASBA process. For further details, see "***Offer Procedure***" on page 552 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through UPI Mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN , UPI ID and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID available (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI Mechanism) in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk. Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with the notification issued by Central Board of Direct Taxes notification dated February 13, 2020 and read with press releases dated June 25, 2021, September 17, 2021 and March 28, 2023 and any subsequent press releases in this regard.

CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF OUR COMPANY AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS: For information on the main objects of our Company, investors are requested to see "***History and Certain Corporate Matters***" on page 313 of the RHP. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, see "***Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection***" on page 663 of the RHP.

LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR COMPANY: Limited by shares.

AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: As on the date of the RHP, the authorized share capital of our Company is ₹ 12,000,000,000 comprising of 1,200,000,000 Equity Shares of face value ₹ 10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of our Company is ₹9,500,000,000 comprising 950,000,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each. For details of the capital structure of our Company, see "***Capital Structure***" on page 111 of the RHP.

NAMES OF THE INITIAL SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF OUR COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES SUBSCRIBED BY THEM: The names of the initial signatories of the Memorandum of Association of our Company along with their allotment are: Allotment of 49,994 Equity Shares to Canara Bank and one Equity Share each to Bhaskara Nageswara Rao Mandavilli, Dharmapuri Sarvothama Rao Anandamurthy, Madhukar Ramarao Kulkarni, Narasipur Sitaramaiah Srinath, Manjeshwar Anantharaya Pai and Alevoor Gopalakrishna Acharya Gururaja Murthy as the registered holders on behalf of Canara Bank, who was the beneficial owner of these Equity Shares. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of our Company see "***Capital Structure***" on page 111 of the RHP.

Listing: The Equity Shares to be offered through the RHP are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. For the purposes of the Offer, NSE is the Designated Stock Exchange.

Disclaimer Clause of SEBI: SEBI only gives its observations on the draft offer document and this does not constitute approval of either the issue or the specified securities stated in the Offer document. The investors are advised to refer to pages 524-525 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of the SEBI.

Disclaimer clause of the NSE (Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 527 of the RHP for the full text of disclaimer clause of NSE.

Disclaimer clause of the BSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by the BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 527 of the RHP for the full text of disclaimer clause of BSE.

Disclaimer clause of IRDAI: The IRDAI does not undertake any responsibility for the financial soundness of our Company or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed in this connection. Any approval by the IRDAI under the Registration Regulations (as defined in "***Definitions and Abbreviations***" on page 1 of the RHP) shall not in any manner be deemed to be or serve as a validation of the facts, representations, assertions made by our Company in the Red Herring Prospectus. IRDAI does not guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents or information in the Red Herring Prospectus. It is to be distinctly understood that the Red Herring Prospectus should not in any way be deemed or construed to have been approved or vetted by IRDAI.

General Risks: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares offered in the Offer have not been recommended or approved by the SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the RHP. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "***Risk Factors***" on page 36 of the RHP.

An indicative timetable in respect of the Offer is set out below:

Event	Indicative Date
Bid/Offer Opening Date	Friday, October 10, 2025
Bid/Offer Closing Date	Tuesday, October 14, 2025
Finalization of Basis of Allotment with the Designated Stock Exchange	On or about Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Initiation of refunds (if any, for Anchor Investors)/unblocking of funds from ASBA*	On or about Thursday, October 16, 2025
Allotment of Equity Shares/ Credit of Equity Shares to dematerialized accounts of Allottees	On or about Thursday, October 16, 2025
Commencement of trading of the Equity Shares on the Stock Exchanges	On or about Friday, October 17, 2025

**In case of any delay in unblocking of amounts in the ASBA Accounts (including amounts blocked through the UPI Mechanism) exceeding two Working Days from the Bid/Offer Closing Date for cancelled / withdrawn / deleted ASBA Forms, the Bidder shall be compensated at a uniform rate of ₹100 per day or 15% per annum of the of the Bid Amount, whichever is higher from the date on which the request for cancellation/ withdrawal/ deletion is placed in the Stock Exchanges bidding platform until the date on which the amounts are unblocked; (ii) any blocking of multiple amounts for the same ASBA Form (for amounts blocked through the UPI Mechanism), the Bidder shall be compensated at a uniform rate ₹100 per day or 15% per annum of the total cumulative blocked amount except the original application amount, whichever is higher from the date on which such multiple amounts were blocked till the date of actual unblock; (iii) any blocking of amounts more than the Bid Amount, the Bidder shall be compensated at a uniform rate of ₹100 per day or 15% per annum of the difference in amount, whichever is higher from the date on which such excess amounts were blocked till the date of actual unblock; (iv) any delay in unblocking of non-allotted/ partially allotted Bids, exceeding two Working Days from the Bid/Offer Closing Date, the Bidder shall be compensated at a uniform rate of ₹100 per day or 15% per annum of the Bid Amount, whichever is higher for the entire duration of delay exceeding two Working Days from the Bid/Offer Closing Date by the SCSB responsible for causing such delay in unblocking. The BRLMs shall, in their sole discretion, identify and fix the liability on such intermediary or entity responsible for such delay in unblocking. The Bidder shall be compensated in the manner specified in the SEBI ICDR Master Circular and the SEBI RTA Master Circular, which for the avoidance of doubt, shall be deemed to be incorporated in the deemed agreement of the Company with the SCSBs and relevant intermediaries, to the extent applicable.*

The processing fees for applications made by UPI Bidders may be released to the remitter banks (SCSBs) only after such banks provide a written confirmation on compliance with the SEBI ICDR Master Circular and the SEBI RTA Master Circular.

Bid/Offer Period (except the Bid/Offer Closing Date)	
Submission of Bids (other than Bids from Anchor Investors):	Only between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time ("IST")
Bid/Offer Closing Date*	
Submission of electronic applications (online ASBA through 3-in-1 accounts) – For RIBs and Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 5.00 p.m. IST
Submission of electronic application (bank ASBA through online channels like internet banking, mobile banking and syndicate ASBA applications through UPI as a payment mechanism where Bid Amount is up to ₹500,000)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 4.00 p.m. IST
Submission of electronic applications (syndicate non-retail, non-individual applications of QIBs and NIIs)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 3.00 p.m. IST
Submission of physical applications (direct bank ASBA)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 1.00 p.m. IST
Submission of physical applications (syndicate non-retail, non-individual applications where Bid Amount is more than ₹500,000)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 12.00 p.m. IST
Revision/cancellation of Bids	
Upward Revision of Bids by QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders categories#	Only between 10.00 a.m. on the Bid/Offer Opening Date and up to 4.00 p.m. IST on Bid/ Offer Closing Date
Upward or downward Revision of Bids or cancellation of Bids by RIBs and Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion	Only between 10.00 a.m. on the Bid/Offer Opening Date and up to 5.00 p.m. IST on the Bid/Offer Closing Date

**UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5 p.m. on the Bid/Offer Closing Date.*

#QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders can neither revise their bids downwards nor cancel/withdraw their Bids.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS					REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER	COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER
SBI CAPS Complete Investment Banking Solutions	BNP PARIBAS	HSBC	JM Financial	motilal oswal Investment Banking	KFINTECH EXPERIENCE TRANSFORMATION	**Vatsala Sameer** 35th Floor, Tower 1, M3M International Financial Centre, Golf Course Extension Road, Sector 66, Gurugram 122 002, Haryana, India **Tel:** +91 0124 4506761; **E-mail:** investor@canarahsbclife.in: **Website:** www.canarahsbclife.com
SBI Capital Markets Limited 1501, 15th floor, A& B Wing, Parinee Crescenzo Building, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 4006 9807, **E-mail:** chl.ipo@sbicaps.com **Website:** www.sbicaps.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** investor.relations@sbicaps.com **Contact person:** Raghavendra Bhat/Aditya Deshpande **SEBI registration no.:** INM000003531	**BNP Paribas** 1 North Avenue, Maker Maxity, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051 Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 3370 4000 **E-mail:** dl.canarahsbclifeipo@bnpparibas.com **Website:** www.bnpparibas.co.in **Investor grievance e-mail:** indiainvestors.care@asia.bnpparibas.com **Contact person:** Mahabir Kochar **SEBI registration no.:** INM000011534	**HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited[1]** 52/60, Mahatma Gandhi Road Fort Mumbai 400 001, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 6864 1289 **E-mail:** chlicipo@hsbc.co.in **Website:** www.business.hsbc.co.in **Investor grievance e-mail:** investorgrievance@hsbc.co.in **Contact person:** Harsh Thakkar/Harshit Tayal **SEBI registration no.:** INM000010353	**JM Financial Limited** 7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025 Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 6630 3030 **E-mail:** CHL.ipo@jmfl.com **Website:** www.jmfl.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** grievance.ibd@jmfl.com **Contact person:** Prachee Dhuri **SEBI registration no.:** INM000010361	**Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited** Motilal Oswal Tower Rahimtullah, Sayani Road, Opposite Parel ST Depot, Prabhadevi Mumbai – 400 025, Maharashtra India **Tel:** +91 22 7193 4380 **E-mail:** chl.ipo@motilaloswal.com **Website:** www.motilaloswalgroup.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** moiaplredressal@motilaloswal.com **Contact person:** Vaibhav Shah **SEBI registration no.:** INM000011005	**KFin Technologies Limited** Selenium Tower B, Plot No. 31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally Hyderabad 500 032, Telangana, India **Tel:** +91 40 6716 2222/18003094001 **E-mail:** einward.ris@kfintech.com **Website:** www.kfintech.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** einward.ris@kfintech.com **Contact person:** M Murali Krishna **SEBI registration no.:** INR000000221	Bidders may contact the Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, the BRLMs or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related grievances including non-receipt of letters of Allotment, non-receipt of Allotment Advice, non-credit of allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode, etc. For all Offer related queries and for redressal of complaints, Bidders may also write to the BRLMs and / or Registrar.

[1]In compliance with the proviso to Regulation 21A(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Merchant Bankers) Regulations, 1992, as amended ("SEBI Merchant Bankers Regulations") and Regulation 23(3) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited ("HSBC Securities") will be involved only in marketing of the Offer. HSBC Securities has signed the due diligence certificate and has been disclosed as a BRLM for the Offer.

AVAILABILITY OF RHP: Investors should note that Investment in Equity Shares involves a high degree of risk and investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the Risk Factors contained herein, before applying in the Offer. Full copy of the RHP is available at the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, the website of Stock Exchanges at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com the website of our Company at www.canarahsbclife.com and the website of BRLMs i.e., SBI Capital Markets Limited, BNP Paribas, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited[1], JM Financial Limited and Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited at www.sbicaps.com, www.bnpparibas.co.in, www.business.hsbc.co.in, www.jmfl.com and www.motilaloswalgroup.com, respectively.

AVAILABILITY OF THE ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS: A copy of the abridged prospectus shall be available on the website of our Company, the BRLMs, i.e., SBI Capital Markets Limited, BNP Paribas, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited[1], JM Financial Limited and Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited at www.sbicaps.com, www.bnpparibas.co.in, www.business.hsbc.co.in, www.jmfl.com and www.motilaloswalgroup.com, respectively and the website of the Registrar to the Offer i.e., KFin Technologies Limited at www.kfintech.com.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORMS: Application forms can be obtained from the Registered Office of **Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited**, Tel: +91 0124 4506761 and the **BRLMs –** SBI Capital Markets Limited, Tel: +91 22 4006 9807, **BNP Paribas,** Tel: +91 22 3370 4000, **HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited[1]**, Tel: +91 22 6864 1289, **JM Financial Limited,** Tel: +91 22 6630 3030 and **Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited,** Tel: +91 22 7193 4380.

Syndicate Members: BRLMs and SBICAP Securities Limited, Investec Capital Services (India) Private Limited, JM Financial Services Limited and Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited and at the select locations of the Sub-syndicate Members (as given below), SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Offer. Bid cum Application Forms will also be available on the websites of BSE and NSE and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

APPLICATIONS SUPPORTED BY BLOCKED AMOUNT (ASBA): Investors have to apply through the ASBA process. ASBA has to be availed by all the investors. For details on ASBA process, please refer to the details given in the ASBA Form and Abridged Prospectus and also please refer to "***Offer Procedure***" on page 552 of RHP. Further ASBA Application forms can be obtained from Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of banks that are available on website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in and website of Stock Exchanges at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com. The investors are required to fill the Bid Cum Application form and submit the same to the relevant SCSBs at the specific locations or registered brokers at the broker centers or RTA or DP's. The SCSB's will block the amount in the account as per the authority contained in application form. On allotment, amount will be unblocked and account will be debited only to the extent required to be paid for allotment of shares. Hence, there will be no need of refund.

UPI: UPI Bidders can also Bid through UPI Mechanism.

Sub-Syndicate Members: Almondz Global Securities Ltd, Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Ltd, Centrum Broking Ltd, Eurekha Stock & Share Brokers Ltd, Globe Capital Markets Ltd, HDFC Securities Ltd, ICICI Securities Ltd, IDBI Capital Markets and Securities Ltd, IIFL Capital Services Ltd (Formely known as IIFL Securities Ltd), JM Financial Services Limited, Keynote Capital Limited, KJMC Capital Markets Ltd, Kotak Securities Limited, LKP Secuties Ltd, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited, Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited(Formely known as Edelweiss Broking Limited), Prabhudas Lilladher P. Ltd, Pravin Ratilal Share & Stock Brokers Ltd, Religare Broking Ltd, RR Equity Brokers Pvt. Ltd, SBICAP Securities Ltd, Sharekhan Ltd, SMC Global Securities Ltd, Tradebulls Securities Limited, YES Securities Ltd.

Bankers to the Offer

Escrow Collection Bank, Sponsor Bank and Refund Bank: ICICI Bank Limited

Public Offer Account Bank and Sponsor Bank: Axis Bank Limited

All capitalized terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in RHP.

For **Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited**
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Vatsala Sameer
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place: New Delhi
Date: October 13, 2025

Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited is proposing, subject to, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with the RoC on October 4, 2025. The RHP is available on the website of the Company at www.canarahsbclife.com, SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, as well as on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e., SBI Capital Markets Limited, BNP Paribas, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited[1], JM Financial Limited and Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited at www.sbicaps.com, www.bnpparibas.co.in, www.business.hsbc.co.in, www.jmfl.com and www.motilaloswalgroup.com, respectively and the websites of National Stock Exchange of India Limited and BSE Limited at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com, respectively. Any potential investor should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see ***"Risk Factors"*** on page 36 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP. The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "U.S.Securities Act"), and may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable U.S. state securities laws.

Accordingly, the Equity Shares are only being offered and sold (i) within the United States to "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the U.S. ecurities Act ("Rule 144A") and referred to in this Red Herring Prospectus as "U.S. QIBs", for the avoidance of doubt, the term U.S. QIBs does not refer to a category of institutional investor defined under applicable Indian regulations and referred to in this Red Herring Prospectus as "QIBs") in one or more transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act; and (ii) outside the United States in "offshore transactions", as defined in, and in reliance on Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales are made.

The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered, listed or otherwise qualified in any other jurisdiction outside India and may not be offered or sold, and Bids may not be made by persons in any such jurisdiction, except in compliance with the applicable laws of such jurisdiction.

[1]In compliance with the proviso to Regulation 21A(1) of the SEBI Merchant Bankers Regulations and Regulation 23(3) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, HSBC Securities will be involved only in marketing of the Offer. HSBC Securities has signed the due diligence certificate and has been disclosed as a BRLM for the Offer.

Adfactors

Siddaramaiah directs CS to study T.N. policy on RSS activities

BJP leaders continue tirade against IT-BT and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge for his demand on controlling activities of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in government institutions and on public premises

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Keshava Krupa, the office of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, at Chamarajpet in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

While the BJP continued to rile against IT-BT and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge for seeking a ban on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) activities in government institutions and on public premises, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he had instructed the Chief Secretary to study measures taken by the neighbouring Tamil Nadu government to restrict the activities of the outfit there.

Speaking to reporters in Bagalkot on Monday, he said, "Mr. Kharge has written a letter and flagged the issue of RSS using government premises, and to do what the government in Tamil Nadu had done to stop it. I have asked the Chief Secretary to verify and see what has been done in Tamil Nadu."

On Sunday, the day RSS held 100 events across Bengaluru to mark its centenary, Mr. Kharge sought the government's intervention to ensure that the organisation did not use government premises for its events. He said in the letter, "In the interest of the well-being of the country's children, youth, the public, and society as a whole, I earnestly request that a ban be imposed on all types of activities conducted by the RSS, whether under the name of shakha, sanghik, or baithak on the premises of government properties."

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao also questioned the RSS, stating, "The RSS is a political outfit, even though it claims to be a cultural organisation. How can a political outfit be allowed to use government facilities?"

Home Minister G. Parameshwara said the decision rested with the government, not individual Ministers. "If it comes to our department, we will check it. Right now, there is no law, and there is no room for a ban. This is not a question of my opinion, the government should decide."

Meanwhile, various BJP leaders continued to criticise Mr. Kharge for his views on the RSS.

C.T. Ravi, MLC and former Minister, challenged Mr. Kharge to a public debate on the issue, saying there was "a huge difference between terrorism and patriotism" and the RSS represented the latter. The Congress, he alleged, was "supporting terrorism and eliminating patriotism".

Tejasvi Surya, BJP MP, said any attempt to ban the RSS would be "futile" as the organisation had only grown stronger every time it had been banned.

Ban by Patel

Mr. Kharge kept up his critique of the RSS on Monday and pointed out that in 1948, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, then Union Home Minister, was instrumental in banning the RSS in the aftermath of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.

He mocked the BJP leaders for their "double standards" of not encouraging their own children to don Gana Vesha (the uniform of RSS) while asking others to do so.

On visit of Kharge Sr. to camp

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP on its official handle on Monday posted a picture of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge at an RSS camp, stating that it was proof of the senior leader "appreciating the RSS's social service activities" and "extending full cooperation."

'Propaganda'

Hitting back, his son and IT-BT and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge said on X that it was BJP's "false propaganda."

He clarified that his father had visited the site after chairing a peace committee meeting with officials and community representatives.

He pointed out that Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge was accompanied by the then Police Commissioner H.T. Sangliana. "If you recall correctly, he made it clear: either abide by the law of the land or be prepared to face the consequences."

CM's pick: Siddaramaiah, DKS air divergent views on what matters in Congress

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/BELAGAVI

Siddaramaiah. FILE PHOTO

D.K. Shivakumar. FILE PHOTO

Amid talk of a possible leadership change, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, in different contexts, weighed in on the extent to which support of MLAs and blessings of high command matter in the pick of the person for the top post, airing divergent views.

In an interview with a private TV channel here, Mr. Shivakumar said, "In the Congress, no decision is taken on numbers."

He contended that the party high command would take a decision on the matter, irrespective of the number of MLAs supporting the Chief Minister.

"I know the Congress, and always decisions are not taken based on numbers of party MLAs," he said.

Both matter

Speaking at Rabkavi-Banahatti in Bagalkot district, Mr. Siddaramaiah took a different view, arguing that both matter.

"The high command is the ultimate authority in the party. But the opinions of party MLAs is important too. Appointment of a Chief Minister or other issues are decided based on these two factors," Mr. Siddaramaiah said. He further said, "For all important decisions, there should be consensus of the MLAs and the blessings of the high command."

Meanwhile, the stand of Mr. Shivakumar has drawn reactions from Ministers.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara and IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge sharply reacted to Mr. Shivakumar's comment, saying the high command had been taking decisions based on the support of legislators.

Dr. Parameshwara said the party's central leaders deputed observers or general secretaries to the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting to know the pulse of MLAs and elicit views of legislators on the chief ministerial candidate. Generally, the candidate who secured a majority of support from MLAs became the Chief Minister, he said.

Mr. Kharge endorsed the opinion and said, "Sometimes the number is more, sometimes the number is few. Observers submit a report on the overall situation and environment of the CLP meeting, and then the high command takes the decision."

Apparently extending support to Mr. Shivakumar, Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar said, "The party high command will take a decision" on the leadership change.

Mr. Shivakumar, who has been nursing the ambition of becoming Chief Minister since the party secured a majority in the 2023 Assembly polls, said the so-called "November Kranthi" was a mere speculation and "the Delhi leaders will take a call on the change of leadership".

Deve Gowda discharged from hospital, advised 15 days' rest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

He was hospitalised after developing a urinary tract infection accompanied by high fever and chills

Former Prime Minister and JD(S) patriarch H.D. Deve Gowda, who had been admitted to Manipal Hospitals in Bengaluru for treatment last week, returned home after recovery on Monday. His condition is said to be stable.

The nonagenarian was hospitalised on October 7 after developing a urinary tract infection (UTI) accompanied by high fever and chills. He was being treated in the Intensive Care Unit.

In a post on X, the JD(S) said that the 92-year-old leader had been ordered to rest for 15 more days by doctors, and requested leaders, party workers and his supporters to refrain from paying a visit to his residence to meet him.

"Once Mr. Gowda is well-rested, he will personally come to the party headquarters in J.P. Bhavan and meet everyone," it added.

Speaking to *The Hindu* following his hospitalisation, C.N. Manjunath, Bengaluru Rural MP and Mr. Deve Gowda's son-in-law, had said, "He developed high fever with chills due to UTI. His renal parameters were also deranged and he required hospital care. He may have to remain in the ICU for one or two days before being shifted to the ward."

Meanwhile, several BJP leaders, including Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok called on Mr. Gowda and enquired about his health.

Carry out audit of UAS, Dharwad: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that an ineligible person was holding the post of Comptroller as in-charge for seven years, the High Court of Karnataka directed the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG), Karnataka, to carry out a financial audit of the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad, from the year 2018 to 2025, and take action as per law if any irregularities were found in the audit report.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by Shivaputra M. Honnali, in-charge Comptroller of UAS, Dharwad, who had questioned the State government's September 6, 2025 order of appointing an officer to the post of Comptroller of the varsity.

"It is rather shocking that the petitioner, who was appointed as an in-charge Comptroller, which could not have been for more than six months at the most, and even if a Comptroller is appointed by following the procedure under Section 31(9)(a) of the UAS Act, 2009, the tenure of the Comptroller being not more than four years, the petitioner is continued to discharge his role as a Comptroller from the year 2018 till now for nearly seven years. The above aspect does not inspire confidence and, in fact, is suspicious," the court observed.

It also pointed out that the petitioner was primarily ineligible to hold the post of Comptroller as he did not belong to the cadre of Joint Comptroller of State Accounts Department or an Officer of the rank of the Deputy Accountant-General of Audit and Accounts Department.

The court also pointed out that the law permitted that any in-charge arrangement to the post of Comptroller could only be extended for a period of six months; and admittedly the petitioner had been discharging the in-charge arrangement from 2018 and had been challenging any other appointment made by the State, apparently with the active support of the Vice-Chancellor.

"It is not permissible for the Vice-Chancellor to appoint a Comptroller in such a manner as done, the post of the Comptroller being an essential and important post at the university... I am of the considered opinion that there requires to be an audit, made by the Comptroller and Auditor- General of Karnataka into the affairs of the university from 2018 till date to ascertain if there is any financial mismanagement," observed Justice Govindaraj.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public in General is hereby informed that my Client **Shushma.C w/o Shiva.H,** aged about 31 years, residing at 45 Krishanappa Layout, Thindlu, Vidyaranyapura, Banglore Nortrh Karnataka 560097 is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from its owner **Sri.Srinivas N S/o Nagarajappa,** age 46 residing at 1st main ,1stcross Virupakshapura, Bengaluru North Karnataka 560097
If anybody is having any objections, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, he/she /they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof sustaining his/ her / their objections/ claims/details of disputer's within **7 DAYS** from the date from the publication, fail which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transactions with the above owner now third party climes /objections/dispute will Not Be entertained.

SACHEDULE PROPERTY

The property bearing Site No .4, Assessment No 43/1, Katha No 43/1/4, BBMP Khatha No .23/43/1/4, situated at Thindlu Village, YelahankaHobli, Bangalore North presently comes under BBMP Limit and measuring East to West 29 feet and North to South 46 feet total of 1334 Square feet and bounded by following boundaries. EAST BY: Property belong to Madesh, WEST BY: Property belong to Parvathamma, NORTH BY: Private property, SOUTH BY: Road

Sd/- Sri. DILIP KUMAR
I S and associates, advocates, office at No.3/2, 3rd Floor, 'Thimmaiah Towers', 1st Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru 560009, E-Mail dileep.advocate@gmail.com, Mobile No. 9945328138

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Town Municipal Council, Bhalki

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಪುಸಭಾ/ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ./ವಿಷೇಶ/ಸಿಆರ್–01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFCATION

1) Name of work WORK_INDENT 48711/Call-2, 2) Estimated cost As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 3) Eligibility of Agency/Consultant As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 4) EMD amount As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp 5) Last date for submission of tender **27-10-2025 04:30 PM**, 6) Technical bid opening **28-10-2025, 04:30 PM,** 7) Financial bid opening **30-10-2025, 05:00 PM** 8) Address for communication Chief Officer Town Municipal Council Bhalki Pin code 585328 Phone No:8892941328, Email:ka.bhalki.tmc@gmail.com 9) Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

DIPR/Bidar/201/KSMC&A/2025-26

Sd/- Chief Officer, TMC Bhalki

भारत सरकार
अंतरिक्ष विभाग
इसरो नोदन कॉम्प्लेक्स
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह
महेंद्रगिरि पी ओ-627 133
दूरभाष : 04637–28-1803 / 1672 / 4061,
फैक्स : 04637 – 281681

इसरो ISRO

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
ISRO PROPULSION COMPLEX
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
MAHENDRAGIRI PO - 627 133
Telephone: 04637 – 28-1803 / 1672 / 4061,
Fax: 04637 – 281681.

ई-निविदा सूचना / E-TENDER NOTICE दिनांक/Dated : 13-10-2025

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु **ई-निविदा** द्वारा मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
On Behalf of the President of India, item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following work:

क्र. सं. / Sl. No.	कार्य का नाम / Name of Work	प्राक्कलित लागत Estimated Cost ₹(लाखों में) (in Lakhs)	कार्य पूरा होने की अवधि Period of completion	ईएमडी EMD(₹)
1	एनआईटी सं:आईपीआरसी/ सीएमजी/ टीडी/ ई-108/ एमडब्ल्यू/ सीएमपी-02/2025-26	NIT no:IPRC/CMG/TD/e-108/MW/CMP-02/2025-26		
	आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि में एलवीएम३ हार्डवेयर भंडारण सुविधा का निर्माण/ [सिविल, पी.एच., विद्युत, यांत्रिक एवं वातानुकूलन कार्य] Construction of LVM3 Hardware storage facility at IPRC, Mahendragiri.[Civil, PH, Electrical, Mechanical & AC works].	1259.59	18 (अठारह महीने / Eighteen months)	22,60,000

ऑनलाइन निवेदन करने की तिथि: Dates for Online Request : From 14-10-2025 [10:00 hours/बजे] से To: 28-10-2025 [23:30 hours/बजे] तक।
नियत समय व प्रस्तुतीकरण की तिथि: Due Date & Time of Submission : से To: 04-11-2025 [14:00 hours/बजे तक]
अधिक जानकारी के लिए देखें : For further details visit: www.isro.gov.in/tenders (या/or) www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.
नोट : उपर्युक्त कार्य (कार्यों) के लिए भविष्य में सभी पत्राचार (शुद्धिपत्र) केवल उपर्युक्त वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित किए जाएंगे।
Note : All future correspondence (Corrigenda) for the above work(s) shall be published only on the websites mentioned above.
समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी, आईपीआरसी। GROUP HEAD, CMG, IPRC.

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogy Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023. Tel: 080-29557021
E-mail: pdksaps@gmail.com

No. KSAPS/CST/ARTF/01/2025-CST Date: 09/10/2025

Invitation for Tenders (Call-2) through e-Procurement

Tenders (Two Covers) (Call-2) are invited for printing & supply of ART registers, formats & cards under E-Procurement System. Details are available at e-procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date for submission of tender is on 03/11/2025 at 5.30 pm.

Sd/- Project Director
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
Bangalore

DIPR/CP/3241/AKAR/2025-26

Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (admn)
DGSTO, Mysuru

No.: JCCT(Admn): DGSTO: E-tender/CR.01/FDA.5/2025-26 Dated : 13.10.2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-tender notification inviting for procuring 16 No's. of Scavengers, 12 No's. of Security Guards & 01 No of Gardener on outsource basis to The Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (ADMIN), DGSTO, Mysuru and its subordinate offices. Hereby the department allows the eligible institutions to take the necessary informations required through the departmental official website **https://ctax.kar.nic.in** and Government website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Last date for submission of tender application: **21.10.2025.**

Sd/-
Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (Admin)
DGSTO, Mysuru

DIPR/MYS/1075/SA/2025-26

GUJARAT ENERGY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
GETCO
Registered & Corporate Office, Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan, Racecourse, VADODARA - 390 007
www.getcogujarat.com & https:www.nprocure.com

TENDER NOTICE NO. ACE (P&C): TN-14: 2025-26

[A] PROCUREMENT: E-3072:- Comprehensive AMC for Intel Core i3 AIO Desktop Computer (ACER Veriton Z4640G AIO)- Comprehensive annual maintenance contract includes all parts & accessories/ Power/ adaptor/ internal fan/Hard Drive/ LCD Panel/ Memory RAM/ processor/System Board, etc.

[B] CIVIL: ACE (P&C)/ Contracts/ Civil- 555, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562:- (1) Construction of new Control Room Building (10 Span), cable trench, security cabin, RCC road, store building, rain water harvesting etc. & misc. civil work and demolition of existing quarters & store building at 66 kV Bodeli S/s under Bodeli Division of Jambuva circle., **(2)** Control Room extension of 01 span & renovation and maintenance of old control room, metal spreading work as per new methodology at 220 kV switch yard, construction of compound wall (approx. 100m) and misc. civil work including electrification works at 220 kV Gavasad S/s under Gotri Division under Jambuva Circle., **(3)** Construction of new 132/33 kV C.R. building, foundation, cable trench, RCC road & ancillary civil works at 132kV Bhestan S/s, Tal. Surat & Dist. Surat under Navsari TR Circle., **(4)** Construction of Control Room Building, Foundations, Precast Cable Trench, Compound Wall, RCC Road & Misc. Civil works at 66 kV Bhavanigadh S/s Ta. Muli & Dist. Surendranagar under Surendranagar Circle., **(5)** Construction of peripheral drain, stone pitching, RCC road and miscellaneous civil works at 220 kV live Bhesan S/s Ta. Bhesan & Dist. - Junagadh under Junagadh Circle., **(6)** Construction of cable trench for new 5000 KVA on 66 kV EHT power supply to Unit of M/s CG Semi Private Limited, Sanand Dist. Ahemdabad at 400 kV Charal S/s under option-1, Nadiad TR Circle., **(7)** Construction of control room building, foundations, precast cable trench, precast compound wall, RCC road & misc. civil works etc. at 66 kV Rajpara S/s Ta. Visavadar under Junagadh Circle.

[C] LINE: ACE (P&C)/ CONTRACTS/ E-347, 363, 369, 376/ TL/ UPRATING/ 66 kV/ S&E:- (1) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 66 kV S/C Ambheta - Vansda & 66 kV S/C Ambheta- Fadvel line on M/C tower with AL-59 weight equivalent to ACSR Panther Conductor by utilizing corridor of existing 66 kV Ambheta - Chikhli H-frame line & 66 kV Chikhli -Rankuva Hframe line under Kisan Suryoday Yojna-II on turnkey basis- Package-1 (AP-1 TO AP-30)- Length-9.731km., **(2)** Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Conversion of (i) 66 kV Mehsana-Nagalpur line (ii) 66 kV Borisana-Adalaj line (iii) 66 kV Chhatral-Nandasan line (iv) 66 kV Mehsana-Bhandu line of Mehsana Circle with DOG Conductor into equivalent HTLS Conductor (Equivalent weight of DOG Conductor with Higher Ampacity)., **(3)** Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Conversion of (i) 66 kV Bhuj A-Bhuj D line (ii) 66 kV Lakhond –Paddhar line (iii) 66 kV Nanikhakhar (220 kV)-Nanikhakhar line (iv) 66 kV Amardi-Bhudhamora line (v) 66 kV Anjar-Bhimasar line (vi) 66 kV Anjar-Vidi line (vii) 66 kV Mokha-Mokha line-1 of Anjar Circle with DOG Conductor into equivalent HTLS Conductor (Equivalent weight of DOG Conductor with Higher Ampacity)., **(4)** Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 66 kV D/C Rupavati (220 kV) - Neknam Line on M/C and D/C panther tower with AL-59 conductor (eq. wt. to ACSR panther conductor) having length 14.367Rkm (Overhead D/C Portion only: from AP-43 to Neknam gantry) under KSY-II (Overhead portion only).

[D] SUBSTATION: ACE (P&C)/ CONTRACTS/ E-370:- Supply, Erection, Testing, and commissioning of 220 kV & 66 kV equipment's & materials on Turnkey basis including civil works of 220 kV Jantral AIS Substation.

The above tenders are available on website **www.getcogujarat.com** (for view and download only) & **tender.nprocure.com** (for view, download and online tender submission process).

Note: Bidders are requested to be in touch with our website till opening of these tenders.

Date: 14/10/2025 **Add'l Chief Engineer (Procurement & Contracts)**

Most Ministers attend CM's dinner meeting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Except for four or five Ministers, all others attended a dinner meeting hosted by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at his residence 'Cauvery' on Monday.

Though the meeting created a buzz about a possible Cabinet reshuffle, Ministers who attended it did not confirm news of any recast of the Ministry.

It was reported that the Chief Minister was keen on undertaking a reshuffle to mark the completion of half of the government's five-year term in November. As more details of the meeting are expected on Tuesday, sources said the Chief Minister held one-to-one talks with Ministers during the meeting.

Local body polls

Speaking to reporters, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said issues related to elections to the corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and rural local bodies were discussed at the meeting. While elections would be held for the Bengaluru civic bodies in February-March, he said elections to rural local bodies would be held either simultaneously or after elections to the civic bodies of Bengaluru.

Labour Minister Santhosh Lad said the Chief Minister held a one-to-one meeting with ministers and discussed developments in the department.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, sources said, attended the meeting but left early.

Ministers such as Laxmi Hebbalkar, N.S. Boseraju, Mankala Vaidya, and Satish Jarkiholi did not attend the meeting, and they had reportedly informed the Chief Minister about their prior engagements.

Cough syrup deaths: T.N. govt shuts down Sresan Pharma

All drug manufacturing licences of Sresan Pharmaceuticals stand cancelled; the government has ordered comprehensive inspections of all pharmaceutical manufacturing units across the State

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The action follows after the death of 22 children in M.P. linked to the cough syrup manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceuticals. FILE PHOTO

The Tamil Nadu Drugs Control Department has cancelled all manufacturing licences of Sresan Pharmaceuticals and permanently closed the company after laboratory tests confirmed the presence of the lethal chemical diethylene glycol (DEG) in one of its paediatric syrups.

According to an official release, the action follows the death of 22 children in Madhya Pradesh, reportedly linked to Coldrif Syrup, manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceuticals, based in Tamil Nadu's Kacheepuram district.

Samples of five products, including Coldrif Syrup (Batch No: SR-13), were taken and sent to the Government Drugs Testing Laboratory in Chennai. The analysis, completed on October 2, revealed that quantities of DEG was present in the syrup.

On October 3, a stop-production order was issued, and the company was sealed.

The company's owner, Ranganathan, 75, was arrested on October 9 in Chennai, by the Tamil Nadu Police and the M.P. Special Investigation Team.

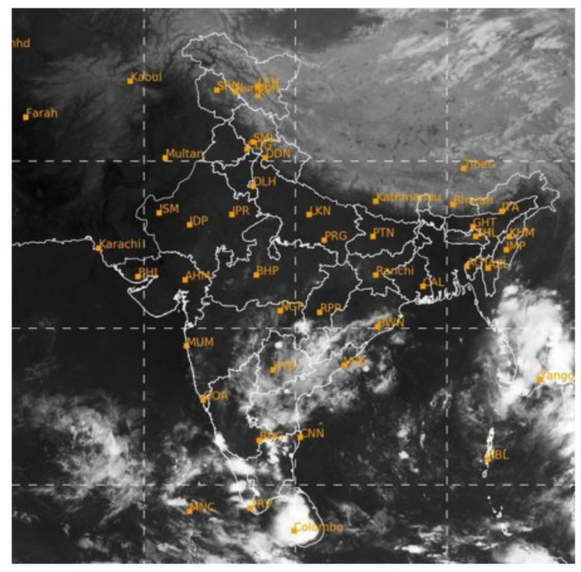
Two senior drug inspectors from Kancheepuram were suspended for failing to conduct mandatory inspections in 2023, despite earlier actions against the company in 2021 and 2022.

On Monday, officers of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches at seven locations in Tamil Nadu, including properties linked to key employees of Sresan Pharma and officials of the State Drugs Control Department.

As of Monday, all drug manufacturing licences of Sresan Pharmaceuticals stand cancelled, and the company has been permanently shut down. The Tamil Nadu government has also ordered comprehensive inspections of all pharmaceutical manufacturing units across the State.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Odisha, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Chhattisgarh, north interior Karnataka, Mahe and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.6	23.0	Kozhikode	4	33.2	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	34.5	21.1	Kurnool	4	32.5	24.5
Aizawl	—	30.7	21.9	Lucknow	—	32.4	18.4
Allahabad	—	33.2	19.3	Madurai	—	36.5	25.1
Bengaluru	—	30.1	20.4	Mangaluru	31	31.4	23.4
Bhopal	—	29.6	15.8	Mumbai	—	34.4	22.5
Bhubaneswar	—	32.5	23.9	Mysuru	2	31.4	20.0
Chandigarh	—	32.6	17.7	New Delhi	—	32.6	19.0
Chennai	—	32.7	26.3	Patna	—	31.4	24.0
Coimbatore	—	33.0	23.4	Port Blair	—	30.5	24.2
Dehradun	—	30.5	17.4	Puducherry	0.3	31.0	24.4
Gangtok	—	22.4	14.9	Pune	—	35.0	20.9
Goa	—	33.4	24.8	Raipur	—	32.2	22.9
Guwahati	—	32.8	24.9	Ranchi	—	29.4	19.8
Hubballi	—	31.0	21.0	Shillong	—	22.8	15.1
Hyderabad	—	29.7	21.6	Shimla	—	24.0	13.2
Imphal	—	31.2	25.5	Srinagar	—	25.8	7.7
Jaipur	—	30.4	19.6	Thiruvananthapuram	40	33.4	23.6
Kochi	57	30.8	24.8	Tiruchi	—	33.5	25.6
Kohima	—	24.0	16.0	Vijayawada	2	27.8	25.5
Kolkata	—	32.7	24.6	Visakhapatnam	9	28.0	25.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	2	22	11	253	166	
Bengaluru	10	11	56	123	142	
Chennai	2	3	29	75	134	
Delhi	38	36	54	184	342	
Hyderabad	7	24	35	151	134	
Kolkata	5	41	19	160	128	
Lucknow	8	55	36	175	134	
Mumbai	2	63	40	201	—	
Pune	—	15	19	212	160	
Visakhapatnam	6	18	24	70	74	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Namakkal, Tamil Nadu recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 260 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Why RSS not named in FIR on Kerala man's death, asks Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/ KOTTAYAM

The Congress on Monday hit out at both the Union and Kerala governments, questioning why the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh was not named in the first information report filed in connection with the alleged suicide of a software professional in the State.

Anandu Aji, 26, a native of Elikkulam in Kottayam, was found dead at a hotel room in Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram on October 9.

The death of Mr. Aji triggered a political uproar after a note, which surfaced on his social media account soon after his death, accused a few individuals, including fellow RSS workers, of sexual abuse.

While the RSS on Monday joined calls for an investigation, the BJP has accused the Congress of creating a "fake narrative" and giving a political colour to the incident.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters in Delhi, the party's media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said that in his social media post before committing suicide, Mr. Aji had alleged that he was subjected to sexual abuse since the age of four years in camps run by the Sangh.

"Anandu mentioned the name of RSS multiple times in his post, but the name of RSS is not even mentioned in the FIR. What kind of terror is this... If the name of RSS does not even figure in the FIR, can one expect a fair probe," he said.

In a post on X on Sunday, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had alleged, "The RSS must allow these allegations to be investigated fully... Sexual abuse of boys is a scourge as widespread as that of girls. The code of silence around these unspeakably heinous crimes has to be broken," she said.

The RSS, meanwhile, has joined calls for an investigation. In a statement, K.B. Sreekumar, Saha Prantha Karyavah (South Kerala) of the organisation, called for a thorough and impartial probe. "The note [on social media] contains dubious and baseless allegations," a statement said.

The RSS said it had lodged a formal complaint with the Kottayam District Police, and described Mr. Aji's death as "sad and unfortunate". Mr. Aji's late father too had also served as a karyakartha with the organisation, it said.

"We firmly believe that an independent inquiry will not only bring out the real cause of his unnatural death but also establish the innocence of the RSS," the statement added.

The Democratic Youth Federation of India and Youth Congress have already filed police complaints.

(For those in distress, counselling is available at TeleMANAS-14416)

INBRIEF

HC rejects PIL seeking stay on sale of Arundhati Roy's book

The Kerala High Court on Monday dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) plea filed by a lawyer seeking a stay on the sale of Arundhati Roy's newly released book *Mother Mary Comes To Me*, whose cover photo shows her smoking a beedi. A Division Bench said it was up to the steering committee constituted under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2013, to decide whether the matter was an infringement, which the petitioner refused to consult. The petitioner had also not verified the smoking disclaimer on the back of the book.

Naidu lauds Amaravati farmers and promises justice

Marking a symbolic revival of Andhra Pradesh's capital project, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday inaugurated the new Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) headquarters building at Amaravati.

Mr. Naidu reaffirmed his government's commitment to protecting the interests of Amaravati farmers, promising that no farmer would face any hardship. "I will soon hold a special meeting with the farmers who gave their lands. Their sacrifices will never be forgotten," he said.

79 cybercrime suspect sheets filed under BNS in Telangana

Amid the buzz over the opening of suspect sheets against social media offenders, Telangana police say that the practice is not new and has been in force since the introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) last year and under provisions of the State Police Manual. Officials stressed that the latest memo was an internal communication to cybercrime units. 79 suspect sheets pertaining to cyber criminals have been opened since December 2024 and only one is of a social media offender, a senior official said.

Exports: 'Karnataka is first in services'

Joint Director of Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre, Bengaluru, C.S. Babu Nagesh speaking at an export management training camp in Mysuru on Monday. M.A. SRIRAM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Even though Karnataka tops the country's chart in export of services, the State occupies the fourth position in export of merchandise, according to Joint Director of Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC) C.S. Babu Nagesh.

Speaking after inaugurating an export management training camp organised here on Monday, Mr. Nagesh said Karnataka, by exporting $158 billion of services out of India's total services export of $387 billion during 2024-25, accounted for 41% of the country's services exports.

Karnataka was followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat, he said.

However, Karnataka trailed Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu to occupy the fourth position when it came to the export of merchandise.

He said Karnataka accounted for $189 billion worth of exports out of the country's total exports of merchandise and services worth $852 billion.

Sharing these statistics, Mr. Nagesh called upon "budding exporters" to bridge the country's trade deficit by exporting more goods than it imports.

However, he asked the trainees to properly study the market, both domestic and international, before starting export of various commodities.

He said VTPC was the only such export promotion centre in any State. During the six-day training programme, representatives from the departments, which had to give their approval for exports, would hold sessions.

VTPC would not only facilitate exporters attend trade exhibitions, but also provide information on Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and simplification of Goods and Services Tax.

Meanwhile, general secretary of Mysuru Industries Association, Suresh Kumar Jain, said exporters should ensure that their products were not only cost-effective, but also of superior quality.

GI products

Secretary of Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Shivaji Rao A.K., said there was a need for export promotion councils to secure more Geographical Indication (GI) tags for the benefit of exporters.

Artistic vision

Undeterred spirit: Madhu, a visually impaired artisan, making bamboo baskets on Netaji Road in Bengaluru on Monday. ALLEN EGENUSE J

Raju Talikoti passes away

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Rajesab Muktamsab Talikoti

Veteran actor, playwright, comedian and director of Rangayana Rajesab Muktamsab Talikoti, popularly known as Raju Talikoti, died at the KMC Hospital in Manipal of Udupi district on Monday evening. He suffered a heart attack on Sunday night. He was 60. He is survived by actor-wife Prema Talikoti, two sons and three daughters.

Raju Talikoti was in nearby Hebri for a Kannada film shooting. He suffered a heart attack on Sunday night and was shifted to KMC Hospital in Manipal. He didn't respond to treatment and passed away on Monday evening, his son Bharat said. In a video statement, Medical Superintendent of KMC Hospital Avinash Shetty said that Raju Talikoti who suffered a heart attack while shooting at Hebri was brought to Kasturba Medical College Hospital at 1.30 a.m. on Monday. Senior cardiac surgeons performed angioplasty on him. However, he did not recuperate and passed away, he said.

The actor's son has said that the last rites will be performed at Chikkasindgi in Sindgi taluk of Vijayapura district on Tuesday.

Pinarayi rejects accusations

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday strongly countered media reports that the Enforcement Directorate (ED)had issued a notice to his son, Vivek Kiran, for questioning on suspicion of money laundering and then "mystifyingly dropped" further proceedings in 2023.

The channels claimed that the ED addressed the purported notice to the Cliff House, Mr. Vijayan's official residence in Thiruvananthapuram. Subsequently, the Congress seized on the reports to wrong-foot the government. It alleged that Mr. Vijayan's "secret symbiotic truck" with the ruling dispensation at the Centre had stymied the ED's further action.

Mr. Vijayan said in a press conference, somewhat combatively, that the adverse newspaper headlines and accusatory news chyrons on television channels would not deter him, as in the past, from taking the derogatory allegations aimed at causing him political and reputational damage head-on.

He clarified that neither the Cliff House nor his son had received any such summons from the agency ED. He said the Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary M.A. Baby had talked about the existence of the purported notice without "studying" the matter.

Talking to Taliban

India must be wary of terror groups, even if they are in power

Marked by controversy, Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's ongoing visit to India was meant to signal a major reset in ties between New Delhi and the Taliban. The visit was his first since the Taliban grabbed power in 2021, as was his meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. It was made possible by the UN Security Council's Sanctions committee that waived the travel ban on Mr. Muttaqi, who is on the list of sanctioned terrorists since 2001. New Delhi has strategic reasons for the warm welcome and enhanced relationship. Close ties neutralise the considerable security risk and terror threat from India's western flank, and protect India's personnel and considerable investment in projects there. The deterioration in Afghan-Pakistan ties indicates that the Taliban, as an "enemy's enemy", could prove a valuable ally. Given that the Taliban now control nearly all of Afghanistan, it would seem pragmatic to engage with them at the level other regional powers including Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran and the Central Asian states do. India has announced that it would upgrade the Indian Embassy in Kabul, a "technical mission" thus far, and that both sides will exchange diplomats. This takes India a step closer to recognising the Taliban government, something only Russia has done. India also announced initiatives to build hospitals, provide humanitarian assistance and enhance trade levels. Significantly, both sides "emphasized respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity" – indicating that neither side accepts Pakistan's territorial claims. Mr. Muttaqi also affirmed that the Afghan government will not allow its territory to be used against India, a considerable shift from 2001-21 when Taliban forces targeted India's missions and infrastructure projects.

While the text of the joint statement was substantive, the headlines of the visit have been overshadowed by several missteps and poorly structured optics. The press conference at the Afghan Embassy, and the attempt to raise the flag of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan was one. It also emerged that no women journalists had been invited, leading to outrage. Two days later, Mr. Muttaqi held another, all-inclusive press conference. The government, which distanced itself from the event, missed an opportunity to express its stand on the wider question of the Taliban's ban on women's education and employment, lack of an inclusive political process, treatment of minorities and past attacks by the group. While engaging the Taliban is no doubt important, and vital, for regional security, India must clarify how far it plans to go down the road of appeasing the group, and risking its reputation, towards that end.

Testing governance

National security and ecological responsibility reinforce each other

Fresh impetus for the Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project, planned as a 1.8-GW scheme on the Chenab, coincides with India's unilateral suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) after the Pahalgam terror attack, giving it a geopolitical symbolism that risks overshadowing questions relating to the environmental impact. The Union Ministries of Power and Home Affairs have repeatedly stressed its strategic value to press for exemptions from impact and carrying capacity studies. But other factors cannot be wished away with a magic wand. The Chenab already hosts the Dulhasti, Baglihar and Salal projects, in a "bumper-to-bumper" hydropower corridor. Ignoring cumulative impact here means underestimating compounded sediment loads and slope instability. The gravity dam proposed at Sawalkote, despite being described as run-of-river, will form a reservoir of over 50,000 crore litres, rendering it functionally closer to a storage dam. Its estimated cost has risen by ₹9,000 crore due to inflation and prolonged administrative uncertainty. The NHPC Limited's recent record in comparable Himalayan projects shows many schedule slippages and cost overruns. Finally, rehabilitation costs account for just 0.6% of total expenditure whereas nearly 1,500 families will have to be resettled and 847 hectares of forests will have to be diverted.

In strategic terms, the project's timing signals India's intent to operationalise its entitlement over western rivers following the IWT's suspension. Keeping the treaty in abeyance also removed procedural constraints, allowing projects such as Sawalkote and the Wullar Barrage to go ahead. However, this approach risks diminishing India's credibility as a riparian state that abides by treaties, particularly in fora where it advocates rule-based transboundary governance. Pakistan has already challenged the suspension's legality *vis-à-vis* the 1960 framework. Should India proceed with multiple large projects without cooperative mechanisms, future negotiations may potentially invite third-party scrutiny – precisely what New Delhi has long resisted. In any case, strategic assertion should come with ecological restraint, and would require regional studies and protocols to manage sediments for all future projects, regardless of treaty status. India should also institutionalise data transparency through regional or multilateral platforms, converting hydrological monitoring from a security risk into a confidence-building measure, which would also align strategic autonomy with stewardship. Sawalkote's legacy will ultimately depend on whether India realises that national security and ecological responsibility reinforce each other.

Estimating India's potential growth rate

C. Rangarajan

is Chairman, Madras School of Economics, and former Governor, Reserve Bank of India

D.K. Srivastava

is Honorary Professor, Madras School of Economics, and Member, Advisory Council to the Sixteenth Finance Commission

Several authors, including us, have argued that a growth rate of 6.5% appears to be the potential growth rate of India as of now. But the first quarter growth rate of 2025-26 is estimated at 7.8%. Does this alter our perception about the potential growth rate?

The first quarter real GDP growth in the post-COVID-19 years, from 2022-23 to 2024-25, has averaged 9.9% as compared to corresponding average levels of the second, third and fourth quarters of 7.0%, 6.9% and 7.5%. Thus, a 7.8% real GDP growth in the first quarter of 2025-26 is below the average for the first quarter of the previous three years. The annual real GDP growth rates for 2022-23 to 2024-25 were at 7.6%, 9.2% and 6.5%, respectively.

On the output side, real GVA growth in the first quarter of 2025-26 was 7.6%. This was also lower than the corresponding average GVA growth of 9.5% in the previous three years. The GVA growth in the first quarter of 2025-26 was largely based on improvements in the growth rates of manufacturing and the three important services sectors. It was mainly in manufacturing that the first quarter 2025-26 growth at 7.7% was higher than average first quarter growth for the previous three years at 5.8%.

Potential growth rate and ICOR

We may note that in the three important service sectors – namely trade, transport and others, financial, real estate and others, and public administration and others, growth rates in the first quarter of 2025-26 were quite high at 8.6%, 9.5% and 9.8%. But these were still lower than their corresponding averages in the previous three years at 12.9%, 11.3% and 13.1%, respectively. An increase in potential growth rate would require a sustained increase in growth in all these sectors. It is also important to note that the real gross fixed capital formation rate (GFCFR) in the first quarter was nearly the same in 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 at 34.5%, 34.6% and 34.6%, respectively. Thus, there is no structural break.

The estimation of 6.5% as potential growth rate in our article, "Potential growth stays at 6.5%" (*The Hindu-BusinessLine*, July 4, 2025) is based on the behaviour of GFCFR and Incremental Capital-Output Ratio (ICOR). While the GFCFR does not fluctuate too much, the ICOR is very volatile. The probable reason is that it is not estimated independently. It is derived from dividing the real GFCFR by real GDP growth rate. Thus, the fluctuations in growth get reflected in the ICOR. It is notable that the real GFCFR has been stable at 33.6%, 33.5%, and 33.7% of GDP during 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, respectively. Using an average ICOR on the GFCFR, the potential growth rate may be derived. With the GFCFR remaining at an average of 33.6% and an ICOR of 5.2, the potential growth rate remains at around 6.5%. For potential growth to rise above this level, it is important that the GFCFR improves tangibly above this average level for the previous three years or the ICOR falls below 5.2.

It may be noted that growth rates and the ICOR have been volatile in recent years because of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent adjustments. In estimating India's potential growth rate, one has to look at its performance over a much longer period. India's real GDP growth rate during 2011-12 to 2023-24 averaged 6.1%. In assessing a country's growth potential one may have to give greater weight to recent performance.

> Positive and negative forces may balance themselves out, leaving a figure that is close to 6.5%

On public sector investment

The ICOR is a reflection of how efficiently capital is used. Technology and management ultimately determine the ICOR. One can be confident of sustained higher growth only if fixed capital formation rate goes up. A recent phenomenon in gross fixed capital formation is the bigger role played by government expenditure. In recent years, the share of the public sector in total real GFCF has increased from 21.6% in 2021-22 to 25.1% in 2023-24. Public sector investment is largely focused on infrastructure which has a high sectoral ICOR.

The surge in public sector investment was largely led by the central government. However, that momentum appears to be slowing down. Growth in the Centre's capital expenditure was at 39.4%, 24.4%, and 28.9% in 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, respectively. However, this growth fell to 10.8% in 2024-25.

In order to increase the potential growth rate above 6.5%, we will need to increase the GFCFR by about 2% points from the recent average GFCFR which is around 34%. This will call for an increase in the share of real investment of the private corporate sector in total GFCF which has fallen from 37% to 34.4%, during 2021-22 to 2023-24. This may be supplemented by a reduction in the ICOR.

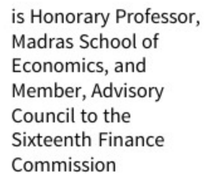
Prospects of growth

Some of the influences that may affect the long-term potential growth on the positive side would include the impact of changing technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Gen AI. On the negative side, there would be the impact of a growing share of capital consumption as capital stock becomes older and new technologies call for a replacement of old capital at a faster rate. These forces may balance themselves out, leaving India's long term potential growth close to 6.5%.

The global trade environment also remains challenging for India. Given the tariff and supply chain uncertainties, much depends on the pace at which India is able to diversify its trade destinations and investment sources globally. After remaining positive for the previous four consecutive quarters, the contribution of net exports turned negative at (-)1.4% points in the first quarter of 2025-26. This trend is likely to continue. We may recognise that a potential growth rate of 6.5% is, in the present world environment, a reasonably high level, although for creating a higher growth of employment, we do need to push our potential growth further. For this, we need to get the private investment rate to move up. Policymakers need to address this issue at the aggregate and sectoral levels. They must understand what is holding back private investment and suggest appropriate remedies.

The views expressed are personal

A green transition accelerating at express speed



Ishaan Sharma

is an IRAS officer, currently posted as Deputy Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer, South Western Railway. He is also a recipient of the Chevening Scholarship from the Government of U.K., 2023

The successful trial of India's first hydrogen-powered coach at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in July 2025 is more than a technological breakthrough. It is a testament to Indian Railways' accelerating green transition.

As one of the largest rail networks in the world, the Indian Railways is undertaking a transformation with few global parallels, with the aim of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, four decades ahead of the national target.

This ambitious shift is not just limited to clean energy adoption but also extends to a fundamental rethinking of infrastructure, operations and financing models, placing the Indian Railways at the forefront of India's sustainable development agenda.

With over 24 million passengers and three million tonnes of freight moved daily, the decarbonisation of India's railways has direct implications for national climate targets.

The initiatives undertaken

In the last 10 years, the Railways has electrified close to 45,000 kilometres of its broad gauge network. As a result, over 98% of its broad gauge network stands electrified, reducing diesel dependence and cutting emissions sharply. The transition is complemented by large-scale renewable integration, with 553 MW of solar, 103 MW of wind and 100 MW of hybrid capacity (756 MW in total) already commissioned. More than 2,000 stations and service buildings are powered by solar energy, while several railway buildings, including in the Northeast Frontier zone, have secured the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's "Shunya" net-zero label. Innovation in clean traction is exemplified by the first hydrogen-powered train, part of a wider "Hydrogen for Heritage" initiative to deploy 35 such units.

Parallel measures include shifting freight from road to rail to raise its modal share to 45% by 2030, introducing biofuel blends, constructing green buildings, and operationalising Dedicated Freight Corridors which are expected to avert 457 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO_2) over 30 years. These steps signal a technological transformation and a systemic reimagining of the Indian Railways as a climate-positive backbone of national mobility.

> If done right, the decarbonisation plan of the Indian Railways can prove that state-run systems can bring about change without derailing fiscal discipline

Climate finance takes the main line

The decarbonisation drive is increasingly underpinned by a robust and evolving green finance architecture. Since FY2023, the government has issued sovereign green bonds worth ₹58,000 crore, with the transport sector emerging as a major beneficiary. According to data from the Ministry of Finance, approximately ₹42,000 crore has been allocated for the procurement of electric locomotives and metro and suburban rail expansions. These allocations integrate climate objectives into the very core of capital budgeting.

At the institutional level, the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) has played a pivotal role in mobilising climate aligned capital. Beginning with its $500 million green bond issuance in 2017 which was utilised for the re-financing procurement of electric locomotives, the IRFC has steadily expanded its green financing footprint. Most recently, it extended a ₹7,500 crore loan to NTPC Green Energy for the development of renewable power capacity, signalling a growing trend of cross-sectoral financing aimed at strengthening India's low-carbon infrastructure.

Multilateral agencies have also supported the green transition of the Indian Railways. In June 2022, the World Bank approved a $245 million loan for the Rail Logistics Project, aimed at enhancing rail freight infrastructure, decongesting corridors and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Yet, more can be done. The first priority is to match electrification with genuinely decarbonised electricity. If the additional traction power is drawn from a coal-heavy grid, climate gains will be diluted. A solution lies in directly procuring large volumes of renewable energy through long-term contracts with solar and wind producers, a step that has already seen some progress. This would ensure that "green trains" are powered by truly green power, making emissions reductions real rather than notional.

Second, last-mile connectivity must be approached with a climate lens. Railway stations should evolve into multi-modal green hubs, seamlessly integrating electric buses, bicycle-sharing networks and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. For freight, the low-carbon advantage of rail must be preserved through cleaner first-and-last-mile links, whether through electric trucks, Liquefied natural gas-powered vehicles, or emerging hydrogen mobility solutions.

Third, rolling stock innovation must keep pace with global benchmarks. Hydrogen fuel cell trains could be piloted on select non-electrified branch and heritage lines where full electrification is not cost-effective. In parallel, the adoption of lightweight coaches, aerodynamic locomotive designs and Artificial Intelligence-driven energy optimisation systems can reduce traction energy needs and improve operational efficiency.

Finally, technology alone will not drive transformation; behavioural change is equally critical. Green certification for trains, carbon labelling of freight services and public awareness campaigns can make passengers and businesses conscious participants in climate action. With its vast daily reach, the Indian Railways can shape public perception of sustainable mobility in a way no other transport system can.

Meeting the challenge

By 2030, if the net zero target is achieved, Indian Railways could prevent over 60 million tonnes of annual CO_2 emissions which is equivalent to taking 13 million cars off the road. The financial case is equally compelling: electrification and energy efficiency measures are projected to generate cumulative fuel cost savings of over ₹1 lakh crore by the end of the decade.

The challenge is not in setting targets but in mobilising and managing the capital to meet them. Done right, India's railway decarbonisation plan could become a global benchmark, proving that large, state-run transport systems can transition to low-carbon operations without derailing fiscal discipline.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Beyond the accord

The Gaza peace accord marks a hopeful step, but peace without reconstruction is incomplete. The world's attention must now shift from ceasefire diplomacy to rebuilding lives and livelihoods. Hospitals, schools and civic infrastructure lie in ruins, while thousands of small traders and resellers — once the city's economic lifeline — have lost everything. World leaders and international agencies must fix clear responsibilities for humanitarian relief and reconstruction. Without rebuilding Gaza, the accord risks becoming a hollow promise. Real peace begins when the displaced return home and hope is restored.

Gopalaswamy J.,
Chennai

End this war

In his second tenure, U.S. President Donald Trump has done quite a marvellous job in terms of brokering peace. As a peace-loving nonagenarian, one hopes that Mr. Trump does his best now to stop the Russia-Ukraine war. My wish is that the new year should begin with some good news on this front.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

Press meet in Delhi

The incident where women journalists were neither invited nor allowed into a 'males only media professionals' press conference held by the Afghanistan delegation in New Delhi was shocking. The delegation might have tried damage control by holding a second press conference but what happened earlier was not in good taste. There are many stalwarts among women journalists and one fails to understand why the Afghan delegation did what it did. The explanation of it being due to a "technical error" is weak. It is true that the Indian government had nothing to do with the press conference but there should have been a statement of regret. The male journalists ought to have walked out of the press conference but why they appeared disinterested is best known to them.

J.P. Reddy,
Nalgonda, Telangana

Under lock and key

On October 12, my family and I set out from Manamadurai in Tamil Nadu to visit the Aralipparai Murugan temple in Sivagangai district. We were there from 7.45 a.m. to 9 a.m., but, to our great disappointment, found the temple closed. On making enquiries in the village, we were informed that a certain priest has the key to the sanctum (*karuvarai*) and that he pays a visit occasionally to perform the pooja. No one had any further details. There were no sign boards or contact details at the temple to help devotees find out who to approach or what the temple timings or methods of access are. The temple is a very ancient Murugan temple and it is appropriate that arrangements are made to have at least three poojas a day or ensure that the temple lamps are lit on a regular basis.
From what we gathered, it appears that the temple is managed by some individual or private entity, which makes it unclear why such an important responsibility and the temple key should be given to a person who is not available.

Senpagaraja P.,
Manamadurai, Tamil Nadu

Celebrate and clean up

Deepavali is just days away and one is sure to find burnt firecracker litter and waste the next day. If we look forward to the freedom to enjoy the festival without a ban on firecrackers, is it not our responsibility too to ensure that we clean up the firecracker waste? Why are we selfish in leaving the task to conservancy workers?

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The need to address caste-based atrocities

Harish S. Wankhede

Assistant Professor, Center for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi

Despite constitutional promises of equality, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) face persistent caste-based violence and exclusion. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, released in late September, reported that 57,789 cases were registered against SCs in 2023, marking a 0.4% increase over the 57,582 cases reported in 2022, and 12,960 cases were registered against STs in 2023, a sharp 28.8% increase over the 10,064 cases reported in 2022. From assaults in rural areas for defying caste norms to urban discrimination in housing and employment, caste continues to deny citizens dignity and opportunity.

Caste hierarchies remain

Social reformers such as Mahatma Phule, B.R. Ambedkar, Periyar, and Mahatma Gandhi, who challenged the Brahmanical caste order, remain a beacon of hope. Their movements, coupled with constitutional safeguards such as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, aimed to dismantle caste hierarchies. Despite these efforts, progress has been uneven. The belief in caste-based superiority persists, enabling social elites to perpetrate acts of violence, ranging from forcing Dalits to drink urine to ostracising Adivasis for asserting land rights, with alarming impunity. Such acts reflect not only individual prejudice but a societal failure to internalise humanitarian values. This raises questions about India's claim of being a civilised society.

The current political dispensation, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has fallen short in addressing this crisis. The government occasionally promotes symbolic gestures – by including Dalits and Adivasis in religious rituals, for instance; but these efforts lack substance. Hindutva narratives often frame resistance from marginalised communities as a threat to cultural unity. They often label activists as "Hinduphobic". This rhetoric stifles legitimate demands for justice. This was seen, for instance, in the vilification of those protesting an order of the Supreme Court that diluted provisions of the Atrocities Act. Restrictions on Dalit-Bahujan cultural expressions (as seen during the release of the Hindi film Phule) further alienate these communities from becoming part of the mainstream discourse. Moreover, policies promoting social justice, such as reservations in education and employment, are inconsistently implemented. As a result, social elites continue to control and dominate institutions.

The absence of a robust policy framework to bridge the gap between social elites and subaltern groups is glaring. The BJP and its affiliated organisations have not launched a national campaign to challenge caste prejudice or foster inter-caste fraternity in the fear that it would dilute the privileges of dominant castes. Instead, the promotion of Brahmanical cultural narratives often relegates the struggles of Dalit and Adivasi communities to the margins and portrays their resistance as a challenge to traditional authority rather than as a fight for universal dignity. This ideological stance, maintained by Hindutva ideologues, undermines the constitutional vision of an egalitarian society.

Historically, India witnessed powerful resistance movements that reshaped caste dynamics. The Dalit Panthers in the 1970s galvanised marginalised communities, asserting their right to political power and social prestige. The rise of the Bahujan Samaj Party in northern India further empowered Dalits and OBCs, amplifying their voices in governance and public discourse. Intellectual and cultural initiatives, from Dalit literature to Adivasi art, laid claim to India's pluralistic heritage. Yet, today, such movements are fragmented or are relegated to the periphery, with little capacity to challenge current social ills. The response of civil society to caste atrocities has also waned.

The limitations of existing constitutional mechanisms and legislative orders are evident. While there are laws, enforcement is hampered by delayed investigations, low conviction rates, and societal bias within the judiciary and the police. For instance, a 2023 study by the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights noted that over 60% of cases under the Atrocities Act remain pending in courts. This underscores the need for systemic reforms beyond legal provisions.

A multi-pronged approach

Addressing caste atrocities demands a multi-pronged approach rooted in political will and social reform. First, the state must strengthen the enforcement of existing laws, ensuring swift prosecution of perpetrators and sensitising law enforcement agencies about the ills of the caste system. Second, political leaders must champion a national campaign to promote egalitarian values, using education, the media, and public platforms to challenge conventional caste relationships based on hierarchies and prejudices. Third, civil society, including religious institutions, cultural organisations, and academia must foster dialogue to bridge divides between communities. Fourth, affirmative action policies should be rigorously implemented, with transparent monitoring to ensure equitable access to education, jobs, and resources. Most crucially, Dalit, Adivasi, and Bahujan voices must be amplified. The legacy of resistance against the caste system needs a new podium and leadership. A revival of anti-caste social movements will build solidarity among marginalised social groups and re-establish the social justice agenda as a prime concern.

From assaults in rural areas for defying caste norms to urban discrimination in housing and employment, caste continues to deny citizens dignity and opportunity

The importance of Nitish Kumar

The underlying subtext of the Bihar polls revolves around the Chief Minister

STATE OF PLAY

Nistula Hebbar
nistula.hebbar@thehindu.co.in

On October 6, the day the Election Commission of India declared dates for the Assembly elections in Bihar, various players, including Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief J.P. Nadda and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, asserted that their parties will win. However, the State's longest-serving Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar, did not say anything.

Mr. Kumar's silence does not mean he is absent from the contest. In fact, the biggest question hanging over the polls is the state of his health and whether the electorate is inclined to reward him with a last electoral victory and send him off into the sunset, or vote against him and send him into political oblivion.

Mr. Kumar has carved out a significant voter support base, which includes Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs), Mahadalits, some sections of Pasmanda (backward) Muslims, and the "casteless" category of women voters. These groups have kept faith in Mr. Kumar for more than 20 years – through his nine swearing-in ceremonies as Chief Minister and his many cartwheels on alliances and partners. "*Sarkar kisi ki bhi ho, mukhyamantri toh Nitish hi banega* (Whoever forms the government, it will be headed by Nitish Kumar)" had become a staple sentiment in Bihar.

Mr. Kumar's ability to accommodate and adjust to different alliance partners and induce them to acknowledge his leadership has been attributed to his reinterpretation of social justice politics in the

State. He has strategically carved out his own voter base from the broader Mandal OBC bloc, where the Yadav community was perceived to be monopolising power and privilege at the expense of other groups. While this reinterpretation of social justice politics has made Mr. Kumar valuable to the BJP, his ability to limit the Hindutva politics of the BJP while in alliance with the party has made him a choice for the INDIA bloc as well, whenever he wished to change sides.

Apart from this, reforms in governance and improvements in law and order, especially when viewed against the RJD years, helped him attract support from women and younger voters.

However, Mr. Kumar's poor health has brought questions of succession to the fore. People have wondered who will inherit the party mantle and whether voting him back will only provide a window of opportunity for the BJP to finally capture the Chief Minister's chair in Bihar. What complicates matters is that there is no development of leadership – either in his alliance or elsewhere – that could replace him. The TINA (there is no alternative) factor is what made him change sides easily. And it is the same factor that is forcing even the BJP, which is eager to claim control otherwise, kick the can down the road.

Thus, the underlying subtext of the Bihar polls revolves around Mr. Kumar. The National Democratic Alliance has discerned this subtext: in a burst of pre-poll energy, the State government announced a slew of measures, ranging from a ₹10,000 income and entrepreneurship scheme for women, free electricity units, increased pensions, and higher pay for welfare workers. The BJP has unequivocally stated that Mr. Kumar will remain Chief Minister if the NDA is voted back.

It is the same subtext that has led to the emergence of the Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) headed by poll strategist, Prashant Kishor. The JSP's narrative, centred on the need for a new entrant, is clearly aimed at capturing votes from those who are contemplating a post-Nitish Kumar scenario. Whether that goal will manifest now or in 2030 – the year of the next Assembly polls – remains to be seen. Thus, the second most important unknowable of these polls is just how much the JSP will dent the voter base of established political parties and determine the direction of the NDA or the INDIA bloc.

Politics in Bihar has been a source of interesting meta-narratives for national politics over the last few decades – ranging from anti-Congressism, to student-led anti-Emergency movements, to the changing discourse on social justice politics, and expressions of sub-nationalist pride. Mr. Kumar has been a major player in shaping many of these meta-narratives, especially in reinterpreting social justice politics and Bihari pride. The questions over his future have thus emerged not just as the underlying subtext in these elections, but as a central meta-narrative – one that is likely to shape outcomes on result day.

The unexplained drop in gender ratio following Bihar's SIR

The gender ratio fell from 907 to 892 despite the SIR targeting migrants — most of whom were male

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani, Areena Arora and Devyanshi Bihani

In the 2024 general elections, Bihar was one of the few States where a higher percentage of women voted compared to men, even though there were fewer women than men registered on the electoral rolls. **(see Chart 1)**. The plausible explanation for this was that a high number of men had migrated from the State to other parts of the country and were unable to travel back to their respective constituencies.

One of the ostensible reasons for the Election Commission of India to conduct its Special Intensive Revision exercise – done within 40 days between June 25 and August 1 – was to exclude voters who were not ordinarily resident in Bihar, including migrants working outside the State. Given that the turnout of men was lower than the turnout of women (by several percentage points in some seats) in the election, it was expected that the share of male electors would be pruned, leading to a higher gender ratio from the 907 female voters for every 1,000 male voters registered in the 2024 general elections.

However, the final SIR rolls show the opposite trend. The gender ratio has come down to 892, one point lower than what it was in the draft electoral rolls in August. This suggests that there were barely any re-inclusions of women who had been excluded from the draft rolls. The fall in the gender ratio since the Lok Sabha elections in parliamentary constituencies also shows a moderate correlation (0.45) with the increase in female turnout relative to men.

Chart 2 illustrates this relationship: in constituencies where the female turnout was higher than the male voter turnout, the exclusion of women from the electoral rolls was higher in the final rolls. In parliamentary constituencies such as Gopalganj, which registered 1,218 women voting for every 1,000 men who voted, the reduction in the gender ratio from the 2024 general elections to the final SIR roll was 8.38% (967 to 886). The corresponding numbers for Kishanganj were 1,066 women and 7% respectively.

These numbers suggest that a significant number of eligible female electors could have been left out in the final SIR rolls. In previous Data Points, we had found that the exclusions were higher in the 18-29 age category and particularly for the reason, 'permanently shifted'. The ECI said in the Supreme Court that women's names would have been excluded as they had migrated to other States after marriage. Yet, our data stories had shown that more men migrated for work than women who migrated for marriage, according to the Census and later surveys.

Ground reports from Gopalganj and Kishanganj by *The Hindu* revealed that many women whose names were taken off had not gone far: some had moved to neighbouring villages in the same seat and some were registered in the rolls in booths which represented their residence after marriage.

Yet, the large-scale reduction in the gender ratio across the entire State, except for a few seats (**Map 3**) suggests that not all women who had married and migrated to other parts of the State would have re-registered themselves in the rolls. When this question was put forth to the Chief Election Commissioner on October 5 in Patna, he put the onus on political parties to include names that had been left out and said such revisions could continue till 10 days before the deadline for filing nominations.

The SIR exercise whittled down the electoral roll from 7.89 crore in January 2025 to 7.42 crore in September 2025, with the net exclusion of 47 lakh voters across Bihar. As **Map 4** shows, the highest deletions have occurred in seats at or near the State's border.

Missing women voters

The data for the charts were sourced from the Election Commission of India

Chart 1: The ratio of female to male electors against the ratio of female to male voters (turnout) in the 2024 LS elections

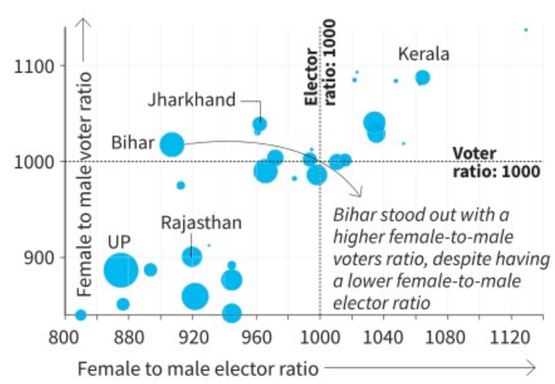
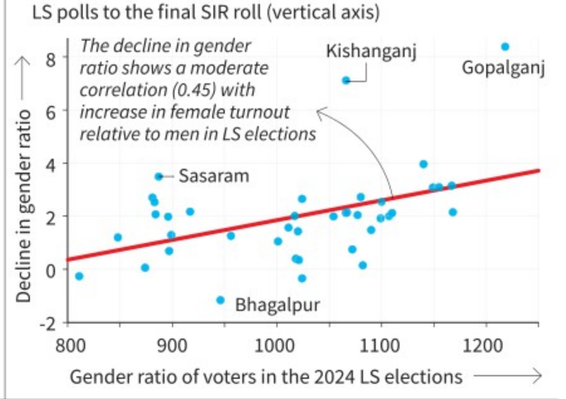
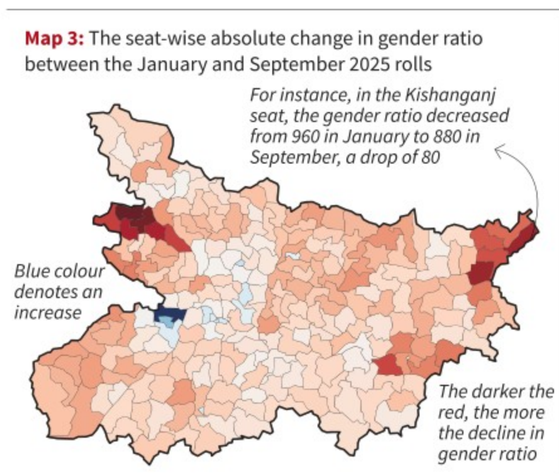


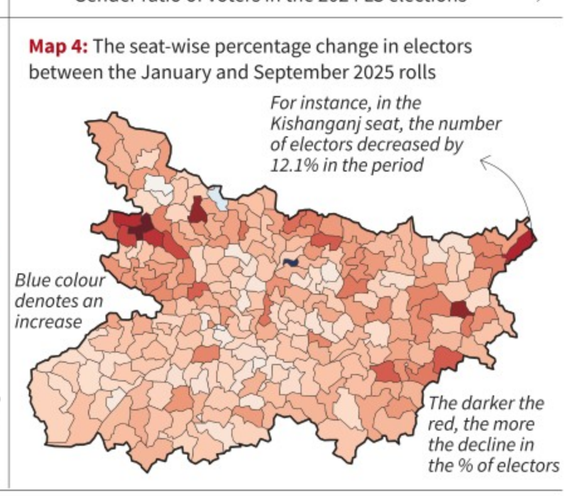
Chart 2: The gender ratio of voters in the 2024 LS elections (horizontal axis). The decline in gender ratio since the 2024 LS polls to the final SIR roll (vertical axis)



Map 3: The seat-wise absolute change in gender ratio between the January and September 2025 rolls


For instance, in the Kishanganj seat, the gender ratio decreased from 960 in January to 880 in September, a drop of 80
Blue colour denotes an increase
The darker the red, the more the decline in gender ratio

Map 4: The seat-wise percentage change in electors between the January and September 2025 rolls


For instance, in the Kishanganj seat, the number of electors decreased by 12.1% in the period
Blue colour denotes an increase
The darker the red, the more the decline in the % of electors

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FROM THE OCT. 13, 1975 ISSUE AS THERE WAS NO ISSUE ON OCT. 14

Iran's big deal for S. African uranium

Washington, Oct. 12: Iran and South Africa are reported to be on the verge of signing an agreement under which the former will buy nearly a billion dollars (Rs. 800 crores) worth of South Africa uranium. Experts estimate that this sale, the largest single deal of its kind, will involve enough nuclear fuel to run a hundred atomic power plants until the year 2,000. Iran is also said to be engaged in negotiations with other African countries with a view to exchanging its oil for their uranium. The Iranian-South African deal is also said to call for joint collaboration in the building of a South African uranium enrichment plant – these plants convert raw uranium oxide into fissionable material used in generating power. At present most of the large enrichments plants are located in the five nuclear weapons producing countries, though other nations have begun to enter this exclusive group. Iran's entry into the nuclear power-producing field in a big way is bound to cause concern among the members of the old nuclear club, especially the U.S. Besides breaking the monopoly of the U.S. in the enriched uranium market, it will also further aggravate American fears that unrestrained spread of nuclear processing facilities will lead to a further spread of nuclear weapons. The U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger, probably had this prospect in mind when he proposed to the U.N. recently the establishment of "multinational regional fuel cycle centres" as a substitute for reprocessing facilities under purely national control.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 14, 1925

The trans-Siberian Railway

London, Oct. 13: Mr. W.W. Grantham, well-known traveller who recently returned to London via Trans-Siberian Railway, after visiting Sino-Japan, writes to the Press warning intending travellers by that route to be prepared for accidents, fatal or otherwise, several of which, during the past six months, were due to the shocking state of the railway track and the rolling stack; and also to the removal of bolts and pins of rails, firstly by counter revolutionary soldiers, anxious to rid Soviet Russia of various individuals supposedly travelling in certain trains, and secondly by bundits.

From Page One

Gaza declaration inked as Hamas frees hostages

Under the ceasefire agreement, Hamas is also due to return the bodies of 27 hostages who died or were killed in captivity, as well as the remains of a soldier killed in 2014 during a previous Gaza conflict.

Israel has said it does not expect all of the dead hostages to be returned on Monday.

Of the prisoners it freed in return, around 250 were security detainees, including many convicted of killing Israelis, while about 1,700 were taken into custody by the Israeli army in Gaza during the war.

On October 7, 2023, militants seized 251 hostages during Hamas's attack on Israel, which led to the deaths of 1,219 people, most of them civilians. All but 47 of those hostages were freed in earlier truces.

Among the potential sticking points are Hamas's refusal to disarm and Israel's failure to pledge full withdrawal from the devastated territory.

The U.S. leader, however, repeatedly signalled he was confident the ceasefire would hold, saying at a joint appearance with Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Sharm el-Sheikh that talks on the next steps of the plan were underway.

"It's started, as far as we're concerned, phase 2 has started," he said.

He lauded the Egyptian leader as having been "very instrumental" in talks with Hamas.

Mr. Sisi said Mr. Trump was the "only one capable of bringing peace to our region". Mr. Trump also briefly met with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas at the summit, which representatives of Israel and Hamas did not attend.

(With inputs from Reuters in Jerusalem)

Retail inflation eases to 8-year low of 1.54%

"That said, risks remain from the late withdrawal of the monsoon and heavy rain in certain regions, which could risk crop damage."

In addition, Ms. Sinha said that persistently high double-digit inflation in edible oils warrants close monitoring, given weak sowing trends, import dependence, and elevated global edible oil prices.

Inflation in the oil and fats category stood at 18.3% in September, the 11th consecutive month of double-digit inflation in the sub-grouping.

Inflation in the fuel and light category came in at 1.98% in September, down from 2.3% in August. Save for one month, inflation in this category has been easing since April.

"The moderation in food and fuel prices has provided much-needed relief to households and improved purchasing power," Rajeev Juneja, president of the PHDCCI, said.

Inflation in the clothing and footwear category was 2.28% in September, marginally lower than the 2.33% seen in August 2025 and the 2.7% in September last year. This is the fifth consecutive month of slowing inflation in this category.

Inflation in the pan, tobacco and other intoxicants category, however, quickened to 2.7% in September from 2.5% in August. Similarly, the housing sector also saw inflation quickening to 4% in September from 3.1% in the previous month.

Economists say that the low inflation figures, with the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee revising downwards its inflation forecast for the year for the fourth time in a row, raises hopes of a rate cut again in December.

SC orders CBI probe into Karur stampede

The Bench observed that entrusting the investigation to the same police force whose senior officials had publicly exonerated their subordinates would compromise the credibility of the probe. It pointed out that "top officials" of the State administration had conducted press conferences to "abjure the fault of the subordinate officials".

Clarifying that its direction is "*prima facie*" in nature and subject to the filing of counter-affidavits by the parties concerned, the court said the Justice Ajay Rastogi-led monitoring committee was authorised to undertake an inquiry into "any matter ancillary or incidental" to the stampede, as may be necessary to ensure a fair and transparent investigation. The CBI has been directed to submit monthly progress reports before the panel.

Justice Rastogi has also been asked to nominate two senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, who are not natives of the State and hold the rank of Inspector-General of Police, to serve on the committee.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions, including one filed by the TVK, challenging the Madras High Court's October 3 order that had accused party president Joseph Vijay and other leaders of "fleeing" the scene.

'No opportunity to be heard'

The Bench noted that Justice Senthilkumar was aware that the Madurai Bench of the High Court, which had territorial jurisdiction over the incident, was already seized of related matters. "There was no occasion for the single judge to pass such directions without orders of the Chief Justice of the High Court," the Bench said, adding that the order had been issued "without impleading TVK or its members and without affording them an opportunity to be heard."

India invites Carney for AI summit, both sides agree to restart trade talks

India and Canada agree to restore ties against the backdrop of talks held between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Canadian counterpart Anita Anand; the two countries also begin discussions on SMR nuclear-powered reactors

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

New momentum: Canada's Foreign Minister Anita Anand met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

India and Canada agreed on a series of measures to restore relations, including relaunching the energy dialogue, after talks between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand on Monday.

Sources said the delegations discussed an invitation for Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to visit India in February next year for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit. While Mr. Carney has not yet accepted the invitation, a senior official from the Canadian Prime Minister's Office was present during the meetings, indicating the visit to India was being considered seriously.

Areas of interest

Among the major announcements, both sides agreed to begin at the earliest, their ministerial-level discussions on bilateral trade and investments, besides re-establishing the Canada-India Ministerial Energy Dialogue for cooperation on renewables and critical minerals, relaunching the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee, and encouraging Canadian AI companies and researchers to participate in India's AI Impact Summit from February 19 to 20, 2026.

India and Canada have also begun preliminary talks on SMR (Small Modular Technology) nuclear-powered reactors and other cooperation in civil nuclear energy.

The focus on a number of issues that have been put on the back-burner since 2023, when Canada accused Indian "government agents" of being involved in the killing of a Khalistani activist in Canada, was an attempt, said officials on both sides, to not allow the security issues between the two countries to overshadow all other areas of cooperation.

On repair mode

Since Mr. Carney and Prime Minister Narendra Modi met in June this year, Delhi and Ottawa have intensified talks on repairing relations, and held security level talks separately when Canadian National Security and Intelligence Advisor Catherine Drouin met with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval in Delhi in September.

"Building on the momentum of Prime Minister Carney's meeting with PM Modi this summer at the G7 Summit, Canada and India are elevating the relationship between our countries, while maintaining our law enforcement and security dialogue and expanding our economic relationship," Ms. Anand said in a statement.

The officials said that although Mr. Carney and Mr. Modi had agreed during their meeting to restart trade talks for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), they may now abandon the previous effort, and start from scratch.

During her one-day visit to Delhi, Ms. Anand also met Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

"Our discussions focused on exploring areas of cooperation in the field of energy, technology, and food security. Also, reiterated India's readiness to reinvigorate mutually beneficial trade, investment, and economic ties based on trust and respect," Mr. Goyal posted, without speaking specifically about the CEPA.

The Canadian Foreign Minister flew to Mumbai on Monday evening, and will meet with investors and Indian industry leaders there on Tuesday.

Congress to boycott JPC on Bills to sack PM, CMs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress has conveyed to the government its decision to not join the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) that will review the Bills on the removal of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and Ministers arrested on serious criminal charges for 30 days.

According to sources, the Congress informed Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju about the party's decision on Monday.

The Lok Sabha had passed a resolution to refer the Bills to a joint committee soon after Union Home Minister Amit Shah had introduced it in the Lok Sabha on August 20.

Three Bills

The three Bills, introduced by the Home Minister, are the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025; the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025; and the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

The Opposition has argued that the intent of this legislation is malafide and that it is futile to participate in a panel where the BJP will be in a majority.

BJP steps up attack on RJD after setback in scam case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday launched a scathing attack on Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad, his wife Rabri Devi, and their son Tejashwi Yadav, after a Delhi court framed charges against them in the IRCTC scam case.

Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad urged the people of Bihar "never to be taken in by Tejashwi Yadav's promises".

"Mr. Tejashwi – who in the run-up to the State Assembly polls has promised to change Bihar – had himself been accused of fraud. When someone has such a reputation how can he change Bihar?" he asked.

Stating that Mr. Lalu Prasad and his family members were facing allegations in multiple cases, the BJP leader said the CBI chargesheet exposed their "massive plunder".

IRCTC case: Delhi court frames charges against Lalu Prasad, his family

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

In the net: The former Bihar CM was completely in the know of the entire scam, the court has observed. ANI

A Delhi court on Monday framed charges related to corruption and criminal conspiracy against Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad, an accused in the IRCTC scam case.

Mr. Prasad's wife Rabri Devi, who also served as Chief Minister, and their son and Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, have been charged with criminal conspiracy and cheating in the same case.

Stating that Mr. Prasad had abused his position as the then Union Railway Minister to manipulate the eligibility conditions of a land tender process, Special Judge Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Court framed the charges against Mr. Prasad and his family.

Mr. Prasad was completely in the know of the entire scam and had even intervened to influence the case, the court further said, adding that the former Minister's actions had caused heavy losses to the public exchequer.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has alleged that Mr. Prasad, during his tenure as Railway Minister between 2004 and 2009, entered into a criminal conspiracy with the owners of some hotels in Patna and Puri. It is alleged that he manipulated the process and awarded Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) tender to accused persons in exchange for bribe in the form of high-value land and shares.

The court has fixed the case for prosecution evidence from October 27, 2025.

Tejashwi slams case as 'political vendetta'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After a Delhi court framed charges against him, his father Lalu Prasad and mother Rabri Devi in the IRCTC scam case, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said on Monday that the case was another example of "political vendetta".

Framing it as a battle between Biharis and "non-Biharis", he said in a post on X: "A month ago, when Union Home Minister Amit Shah *ji* came to Bihar, he was threatening us that he wouldn't leave us in a condition to contest elections. We are Biharis, true Biharis... We do not fear outsiders. Jai Bihar, Jai Bihari".

Afghan Hindus, Sikhs meet Taliban FM

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A delegation of Hindus and Sikhs from Afghanistan who sought refuge in India to escape religious persecution, and for personal safety, over different periods of time met Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi at the Afghanistan Embassy in New Delhi on Monday.

The members proposed to return to Afghanistan only if the Taliban regime promised their safety and protection of properties and religious places, said Guljeet Singh, president of Gurudwara Guru Nanak Sahib Ji, Manohar Nagar, Delhi.

He was among the 15 people who met Mr. Muttaqi, currently on a week-long visit to India.

Former Afghan govt. staffers fear for their future

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Amir Khan Muttaqi

At the heart of the controversy over the Taliban acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's exclusion of women from his first press conference is a deeper tussle between the Taliban regime in Kabul, which calls itself the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, and the former, democratically elected Afghan government, which refers to itself as the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and is still recognised by India, over the control of the Afghanistan Embassy compound in New Delhi.

The Afghan diplomatic staff remaining in Delhi see the press conferences, which they claim the Indian External Affairs Ministry encouraged, as an attempt to grab control of the embassy. They now say they fear for their lives and the safety of their families.

The External Affairs Ministry has consistently said it had "no involvement in the press interaction" held by Mr. Muttaqi.

After outrage from journalists over his first press conference in Delhi last Friday, Mr. Muttaqi held a second one, inviting journalists without any gender restriction on Sunday. Even as the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's red, green and black flag flew on the tall flagpole in front of the embassy, the Taliban delegation used their own black and white flags.

Russia, China, Pakistan, and some Gulf and Central Asian countries have accepted the Emirate flag at their Afghan embassies, but none of the Western and East Asian countries that host the embassies of the former government have done so thus far.

"We waged *jihad* under this flag. We fought with the flag and won with the flag, and that's the reason we have this flag here today," Mr. Muttaqi said in response to a question from *The Hindu* on Sunday. Asked how much of the embassy they controlled, he replied "100%", claiming all five lakh Afghan government employees and mission staff worldwide now work for the Islamic Emirate.

Recognition by India

However, the Charge d' Affaires of the Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi, Mohammad Ibrahimkhil, who was present at the press conference, said the claim was "not correct".

"This is a lie. Until the Indian government recognises the Taliban government, this embassy is with the Republic, and our flag is flying on Shantipath (where the Afghan embassy is situated in New Delhi). When India recognises them, we will respectfully leave, and hand the MEA the keys to the embassy. Then it is for the MEA to decide whether India will fly the Emirate flag of the Taliban here," one of the staffers, who unsuccessfully tried to stop the Taliban delegation from putting up its flags, said.

With India now agreeing to upgrade its technical mission to an embassy in Kabul and Mr. Muttaqi's announcement that India will now accept the Emirate's diplomats, the staff members said they would be powerless to resist any further takeover and fear losing their jobs and their safety if they were forced to return to Afghanistan.

The External Affairs Ministry did not respond to questions posed by *The Hindu* on the situation at the embassy and at what level India and the acting Government of Afghanistan would exchange diplomats following the agreement announced by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

Kannan Gopinathan, ex-IAS officer, joins Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan, who quit the service in 2019 over the question of violation of fundamental rights of people of Jammu and Kashmir and campaigned against the Citizenship Amendment Act, joined the Congress on Monday, crediting the party as the only political force that would take the country in the right direction.

He was inducted in the presence of Congress General Secretary K.C. Venugopal party leaders Kanhaiya Kumar, Jignesh Mewani and IAS officer-turned-politician Sasikanth Senthil.

BIHAR ASSEMBLY POLLS

Nomination filing begins for Phase 2 polls

The Election Commission (EC) on Monday issued the notification for the second phase of Assembly election in Bihar to be held on November 11, beginning the process of filing of nomination papers.

The last date for filing nominations for Phase 2 — in which 122 seats will go to the polls — is October 20, and October 23 is the last date for withdrawal. Counting of votes for all 243 seats will be held on November 14.

The EC said randomisation of electronic voting machines (EVM) for the first phase, to be held on November 6, had been completed.

Constituency-wise lists of randomised EVMs and VVPATs were shared with the representatives of political parties at their district headquarters. These EVMs and VVPATs will be stored in Assembly strong rooms.

Randomisation of EVMs for the first phase of polls on November 6 has been completed. ANI

Global attention falls on Bihar election

Personnel of different embassies, along with the international media, have evinced enviable interest in election-bound Bihar. They have been meeting political leaders, analysts and senior journalists with a ready list of names in their pockets to get "feedback".

Many, though, wonder what kind of "feedback" they get and what they would do with it.

Scores of these people are landing in Patna every day "like choppers hired by political parties for poll campaigning", said a senior journalist working in the State.

He added that "they stay here for a few days and become experts of Bihar politics overnight. After returning with the feedback, they make 'whirring' sounds on the Bihar election."

"The SBSP will contest 153 seats. The party has been demonstrating its strength in Bihar for the past 19 years

ARVIND RAJBHAR
General Secretary, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party

Shelve plan to check women in burkha: SP

The Samajwadi Party (SP) on Monday demanded the withdrawal of the Election Commission's new directive requiring Anganwadi workers to identify burkha-clad women voters during the Bihar Assembly election. They say that the move is against transparent, free, and fair polls. PTI

"If SIR model, an experiment in exclusion, is extended to other States, it will become a method of disenfranchisement

DIPANKAR BHATTACHARYA
General secretary, CPI(ML) Liberation

Talking point: There is speculation among Bihar's voters regarding Nitish Kumar's health. ANI

Janata Dal(U) is no longer alone in the driving seat in NDA in Bihar

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

The sharing of seats among the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners for the Bihar election has sent out a clear message: the Janata Dal(U) is no longer the senior partner and the BJP is now an equal.

Both parties are contesting 101 each of the 243 Assembly seats this time. In the previous elections, the JD(U) had contested a greater number of seats, projecting the party as the *bada bhai*, or elder brother, in Bihar politics with the BJP as its *chhota bhai*, or younger brother.

Ever since the 2010 election, the JD(U) and Mr. Kumar have been at the helm of the NDA, barring 2015 when they were part of the *Mahagatbandhan*, or grand alliance.

Two years later, he broke away from the grand alliance and teamed up with the BJP to form a government again. But for the first time, Mr. Kumar, despite being widely believed to retain the position of the "elder brother" in the alliance, will be an equal partner of the BJP, as far as the number of seats is concerned.

There is speculation about the Chief Minister's health, and it has become a talking point among voters.

"The JD(U) has been doing good work for the State, but due to the failing health of the Chief Minister, we are not in favour of his continuing in the post. The BJP should come forward to take over the mantle this time," said Prem Prakash, a migrant worker from Motihari town in East Champaran district.

Mr. Prakash, 34, works in a sportswear factory in Ludhiana. "My friends and I have come home early due to the festival rush. We will also cast our votes. While we appreciate Nitish Kumar as Chief Minister, he should retire now. He is getting old and should let others take over," he said.

The other NDA ally, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), led by Union Minister Chirag Paswan, has got 29 seats, but political analysts in the State wonder if the JD(U) voters would back Mr. Paswan, who, in the 2020 Assembly election, was instrumental in the defeat of several JD(U) candidates, restricting the party's tally to 43 seats. "The political bonhomie between Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Chirag Paswan is yet to reach the previous stage," the Patna-based political analyst Nawal Kishore Choudhary said.

Mr. Paswan had demanded at least 30 seats as his party has five Lok Sabha members. In Bihar, one Lok Sabha constituency roughly has six Assembly segments.

"The JD(U) has been very lenient to Mr. Paswan. But will the voters back LJP(RV) candidates," asked Ravi Shankar Singh Ashok, who resigned from the LJP(RV) on Monday to contest the Suryagarha Assembly seat in Lakhisarai district as an Independent candidate.

Mr. Prakash thinks Prashant Kishor, the new entrant in the State's politics claiming to be the third alternative, makes sense when he speaks.

"But we will wait before casting our vote for him. He should prove his credentials first before getting our vote," he said.

He said the grand alliance, led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), still "carries the haunting baggage of lawlessness of the previous regime".

But Mr. Choudhary said that "if the RJD experiments like Akhilesh Yadav in Uttar Pradesh by giving fewer tickets to Yadav candidates, it could manage to get over this baggage of the previous regime". He said the Samajwadi Party's strategy of PDA (*pichde*, Dalit and *alpashankhak*, or Backward, Dalit, and minority) could help the RJD shed its Muslim-Yadav tag and attract voters.

With women's vote proving decisive, NDA goes all out to garner support

As women are considered a 'caste-neutral' voting bloc, the Nitish Kumar government has rolled out schemes targeted at them; in the run-up to the Assembly election, the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana pays ₹10,000 to every beneficiary for entrepreneurship, apart from Jeevika scheme

IN FOCUS

Nistula Hebbar
PATNA

After the result of the Bihar Assembly election of 2020 was declared, Prime Minister Narendra Modi singled out women voters for praise, crediting them for the victory achieved by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). In 2025, the lessons of that election and the 2024 Lok Sabha election are very much on the minds of poll strategists within the alliance.

According to backroom managers in the Janata Dal (United), the voting patterns of men and women reveal their own stories. "In the first two phases of the Lok Sabha election [Bihar saw polling in all seven phases], the percentage of polling for both sexes was nearly equal, and there were slightly mixed results. But in the third phase that took place on May 7, the NDA won all five seats," a source said.

For example, in the Supaul Lok Sabha constituency, where women had a higher turnout (13.53%) than men, the JD(U) emerged the winner.

Similarly, in Jhajharpur, where the voting difference was 13.22% in favour of women, the JD(U) once again emerged victorious; in Khagaria, women had an 11.21% edge, and the NDA's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) secured the win; in Madhepura, where the difference was 9.88% in favour of women, the JD(U) bagged the seat as well, while in Araria, with a 10.35% higher turnout among women, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged the winner.

"Clearly women are voting in larger numbers, and independently and in favour of the NDA," said the source.

A new yojana

It is little wonder that the NDA government in the State has, in the run-up to the election, announced the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana (MMRY).

This scheme pays ₹10,000 per female beneficiary for entrepreneurship, apart from the already existing Jeevika programme, and reservation for women in panchayats and government jobs.

The reception with regard to the MMRY, termed the "*Dashazaaria*" or the ₹10,000 programme, has been largely positive. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Renu Devi, a Jeevika worker from Pandpa village in Nardiganj, said that the ₹10,000 aid has got the support of even men.

"*Bhaiyya log* [our brothers] used to earlier say that Jeevika involves much effort for small amounts and intensive involvement with self-help groups, but the ₹10,000 assistance means that every woman can now set up a small business in her home, buy two or three goats, or set up a small shop," she said.

Women's self-assertion in public space is also an important by-product of these programmes, Ms. Renu Devi says proudly.

"Eleven panchayat *tak mujhe log jaante hain, Jeevika didi ke naam se* [I am now known across 11 panchayats as Jeevika *didi*]."

Her colleague Munni Kumari from Gotrayan village, also in Nardiganj, says that after graduation, she had nothing to do and attended a Jeevika meeting, after which she applied for work there and was appointed at the nearby Didi Adhikar Kendra.

At the centre, she deals with educational and medical issues of women, and even cases of domestic violence.

Cycle of benefits

"Nitish*ji* [Chief Minister Nitish Kumar] has given young girls cycles [under the Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana, launched in 2006], the Jeevika scheme and now the *Dashazaari*. We are sure [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi*ji* will do even more," Ms. Kumari said.

When asked, Sunita Devi of the same village dismissed suggestions of Mr. Kumar's ill-health coming in the way of continuance of these schemes for women.

"Modi*ji* will continue these schemes," she said.

Considered a particularly "caste-neutral" vote category, women remain the silver bullet for the NDA in the upcoming election.

Election-eve promises: Munni Kumari (top) and Renu Devi, aid workers, have good words for women-centric schemes. The Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana, termed the '*Dashazaaria*' or the ₹10,000 programme, has got a largely positive response. NISTULA HEBBAR/ANI

Tej Pratap Yadav's JJD announces 21 candidates

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Janshakti Janata Dal (JJD), led by Tej Pratap Yadav, older son of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, on Monday announced the names of 21 candidates for the upcoming Bihar Assembly election.

On May 25, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav expelled from the RJD Mr. Tej Pratap Yadav, the incumbent MLA in the Hasanpur Assembly seat. The senior Mr. Yadav has also snapped all family ties with his older son.

Going by the Assembly seats he has selected, Mr. Tej Pratap Yadav has fielded the maximum number of candidates in constituencies where the RJD won in the 2020 election.

In the 21 constituencies where Mr. Tej Pratap Yadav is fielding his party's candidates, 13 constituencies have incumbent MLAs of the INDIA bloc. The remaining eight JJD candidates will contest for seats currently held by the ruling NDA MLAs, including the BJP and the Janata Dal-United (JD-U).

He also announced his own candidature from Mahua Assembly seat, which is currently represented by the RJD.

'Congress seeks 70 seats, RJD offers 58'; discussions drag on in grand alliance

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Janata Dal-led *Mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) failed to announce its seat-sharing formula for the upcoming Bihar Assembly election on Monday, despite at least two rounds of meetings between the top leadership of the RJD and Congress in the national capital.

The ruling NDA on Sunday announced the number of seats that the coalition would contest with its top constituents – BJP and Janata Dal(U) – for the first time placing each other on equal terms. Both parties will contest 101 seats in the State, which has a 243-member Assembly.

The grand alliance, meanwhile, continues to struggle to reach an acceptable formula. According to sources, the Congress has asked for 70 seats, the same number as they had fought in the 2020 Assembly election. Arguing that the number of constituents in the coalition has increased and therefore the 2020 formula cannot be implemented in this election, the RJD has offered 58 seats.

"We are flexible and we hope others reciprocate with the same gesture," a senior RJD leader said.

Deadlock continues: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi along with other leaders of the grand alliance during a rally in Patna in July. ANI

In a huddle

To avoid media attention, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, along with Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Yadav, met Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, Bihar in-charge Krishna Allavaru and State president Rajesh Ram at Rajya Sabha member Phulo Devi Netam's residence. The meeting lasted for a hour and a half.

Later in the day, Mr. Tejashwi met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. Mr. Venugopal and Mr. Allavaru were present at the meeting.

The former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister was also slated to meet Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, but with the impasse continuing that meeting was not held.

Mr. Gandhi is leaving for Chandigarh on Tuesday, and there is no clarity on whether Mr. Tejashwi would meet Mr. Gandhi before his departure from New Delhi.

The leadership of both parties remained tight-lipped about the negotiations, but insist that the differences will be ironed out soon. "Our efforts are to ensure Bihar gets a good government," Mr. Allavaru told presspersons adding that the Congress would release its list of candidates when the seat-sharing arrangement is finalised.

Meanwhile, the CPI(ML) has started the process of filing nominations for its candidates. They have been offered 19 seats, which is the same number that they fought in 2020.

Jan Suraaj Party announces second list of 65 candidates

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

A day after the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) announced the seat-sharing plan among its allies for the Bihar Assembly election, the Jan Suraaj Party (JSP), founded by former poll strategist Prashant Kishor, on Monday declared a second list of 65 candidates.

Earlier, on October 9, the JSP released its first list of 51 candidates, though Mr. Kishor was not present at that event.

"The total number of JSP candidates [for the Assembly election] has now gone up to 116. Out of them, 25 candidates are [for] reserved seats. Of the remaining 91 seats, one-third [31 seats] have gone to EBC [Extremely Backward Classes] candidates; 21 candidates are OBCs [Other Backward Classes]; 21 belong to minority communities; and the remaining 14 candidates are in the 'others' category," Mr. Kishor said, addressing presspersons in Patna.

"*Jiski jitni sankhya, usko utna* representation *hum log denge* [depending on the numbers in the population, we are giving proportionate seat representation], as we have been saying..," he said.

Prashant Kishor

"No political party has given this much representation to the EBCs yet in their list," Mr. Kishor said, after releasing the second list.

The JSP's list for other seats would also be released soon, party leaders said.

The JSP's first list of 51 candidates included eminent lawyers, doctors, bureaucrats, and academics. It stated that 17 of the party's candidates were from the EBC segment, which makes up over 36% of the State's population, according to the 2022 Bihar caste-based survey report.

The first list also had 11 OBC candidates, and seven each from the Scheduled Castes and minority communities. The remaining nine are from the general category.

"It's for the party to take the final call," Mr. Kishor had said about his own candidature.

INBRIEF

Two more held in Durgapur medical student gang rape

Two more persons were arrested on Monday in connection with the gang rape of a medical student in Durgapur district of West Bengal even as BJP leaders claimed that one of the arrested had links to the ruling Trinamool Congress. Governor C. V. Ananda Bose met the family of the survivor. "All five accused have been arrested and taken into custody," a senior police official at Durgapur told *The Hindu*. The accused are Sheikh Safiqul, Sheikh Nasiruddin, Sheikh Reajuddin, Firdos Sheikh, and Apu Bauri. Leader of the Opposition and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari visited Durgapur and staged a protest with other members at Durgapur city centre.

Over 3 lakh schools register for Viksit Bharat Buildathon

The Union Education Ministry's Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025 was inaugurated on Monday by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, with about 1 crore students from across 3 lakh schools in the country participating in what the government has billed as "India's largest synchronised innovation hackathon for school students". Students from Classes 6 to 12 were asked to come up with ideas and product prototypes for *Viksit Bharat*. The two-hour "live innovation event" on Monday saw teams of 3-5 students gather to brainstorm ideas. Mr. Pradhan said, "Confident that the innovative ideas will pave the way for creating new global models"

Uttarakhand eases UCC rules for people from Nepal, Bhutan

The Uttarakhand government on Monday approved a crucial amendment to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), bringing relief to citizens of Nepali and Bhutanese origin who are living in the State and do not have an Aadhaar card as identity proof to register their marriage. Sources stated that the State has allowed people from Nepal, Bhutan and even Tibet to register their marriage using a certificate from the Foreign Registration Officer. The official added that the aim was to give respite to people of Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet, who share historic and cultural ties with the State.

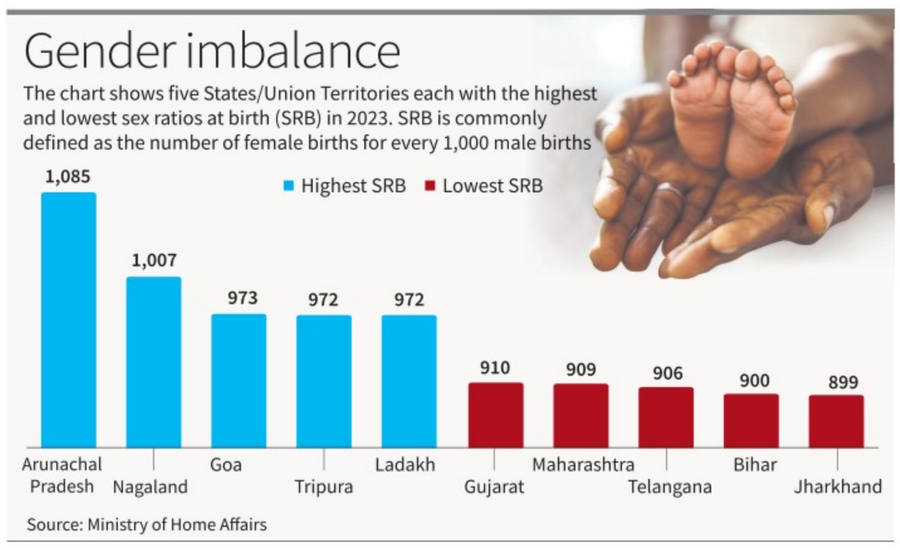
SC refuses to quash FIR against folk singer over posts

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to quash the First Information Report (FIR) against folk singer and activist Neha Singh Rathore, accused of using derogatory remarks towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi and promoting hatred between communities with her allegedly provocative social media posts following the Pahalgam terror attack. A Bench said it was not inclined to interfere at this stage, but clarified that Ms. Rathore could raise her objections when charges are framed before the trial court. Appearing for Ms. Rathore, senior advocate Kapil Sibal questioned how provisions relating to mutiny and waging war against the State could be invoked for her social media posts.

Number of births declines; deaths rise slightly: report

The Vital Statistics of India, based on the Civil Registration System report for 2023, shows 86.6 lakh deaths were registered that year, recording a marginal increase from the 86.5 lakh in 2022

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI



India registered 2.52 crore births in 2023, around 2.32 lakh fewer than in 2022, the Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System (CRS) report for the year 2023 shows.

The report, compiled by the Registrar-General of India (RGI) and released on Monday, stated that 86.6 lakh deaths were registered in 2023, a marginal increase from 86.5 lakh deaths in 2022.

The report shows that there was no major spike in deaths in 2022 and 2023, despite the COVID-19 dashboard maintained by the Health Ministry showing that the total number of pandemic-induced deaths stood at 5,33,665 as on May 5.

However, there was a significant rise in deaths in 2021, the second-year of COVID-19 lockdown, which recorded an excess of 21 lakh deaths from the 2020 count.

There were 81.2 lakh deaths in 2020 and 102.2 lakh in 2021.

The report also said that Jharkhand recorded the lowest sex ratio at birth at 899, followed by Bihar at 900, Telangana at 906, Maharashtra at 909, Gujarat at 910, Haryana at 911 and Mizoram at 911. Since 2020, Bihar has been recording the lowest sex ratio, which is defined as the number of females born per 1,000 males.

Sex ratio count

The highest sex ratio was reported by Arunachal Pradesh at 1,085, followed by Nagaland at 1,007, Goa at 973, Ladakh and Tripura at 972, and Kerala at 967.

The share of institutional births in total registered births is 74.7 % in 2023. However, the report did not include information from Sikkim. Overall registration of births for the year 2023 stood at 98.4%.

Statewise data

The report said that 11 States/Union Territories achieved more than 90% registration of births within the prescribed time limit of 21 days.

These States are Gujarat, Puducherry, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Goa and Punjab. Five States – Odisha, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh – reported 80-90% registration, while in 14 States – Assam, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Bihar, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh – the registration stood at 50-80%.

Hike in PF pension under consideration of Cabinet: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

To enhance ease of living, EPFO Trust decided to simplify the provisions for partial withdrawal

Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told a meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) here on Monday that the Cabinet was actively considering increasing the minimum PF pension.

Though the issue was not on the agenda, trade union members in the CBT said during the discussions that the minimum PF pension should be revised from the present ₹1,000 a month. "The Minister did not rule it out and said the Cabinet is actively considering the proposal," a CBT member told *The Hindu* after the meeting.

The meeting also discussed the issue of delay in distributing higher pension as per the Supreme Court order. Some CBT members argued that the EPFO must withdraw the guidelines framed on the matter, and said that new guidelines should be implemented in tune with the top court order. "The response was not positive," another member said.

The Labour Ministry, in a release, said the meeting took a number of path-breaking decisions, including simplification and liberalisation of the EPF partial withdrawal provisions.

"To enhance ease of living of EPF members, CBT decided to simplify the partial withdrawal provisions of EPF Scheme by merging 13 complex provisions into a single, streamlined rule categorised into three types namely, Essential Needs (illness, education, marriage), Housing Needs, and Special Circumstances. Now, members will be able to withdraw up to 100% of the eligible balance in the Provident Fund, including employee and employer share," the Ministry said.

Withdrawal limits have been liberalised – education withdrawals will be allowed up to 10 times and marriage up to five times (from existing limit of a total of three partial withdrawals for marriage and education in all). "Requirement of minimum service has been uniformly reduced to only 12 months for all partial withdrawals," it added.

Authorities meet officer's wife over autopsy

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

A week after Haryana IPS officer Y. Puran Kumar was found dead, his autopsy remains pending.

His family has refused to allow the postmortem to proceed until two key accused in the case – Haryana Director-General of Police (DGP) Shatrujeet Kapur and former Rohtak Superintendent of Police Narendra Bijarniya – are arrested. Officials of the Haryana government were seen visiting the residence of Kumar's wife in an attempt to persuade her to agree to the autopsy.

The Chandigarh Police said the Special Investigation Team had sent a letter to Ms. Kumar, asking her to come forward for identification of the body to increase the momentum of the investigation.

Achieving Centre's rooftop solar targets to remain a challenge: study

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Despite a near four-fold increase in applications between March 2024 and July 2025, only 13.1% of the targeted 1 crore solar rooftop installations, under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana (PMSGY), has been achieved, and just 14.1% of the allocated ₹65,700 crore in subsidies released till July 2025, a report said.

"In this scenario, the FY2027 target [of 1 crore installations] continues to be viewed as a considerable challenge," said the report on the performance of the scheme, jointly published by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and JMK Research and Analytics on Tuesday.

Reasons included tardy approval processes, which could stretch anywhere from 45 to 120 days, stemming largely from "meter shortages, lack of coordination between consumers, installers, and DISCOMs, and procedural inefficiencies at the utility level," it noted.

The scheme has facilitated the installation of 4,946 MW of rooftop solar capacity till July 2025 across States and Union Territories.

The PMSGY is a Centre-led endeavour to encourage more homes to install rooftop solar connections. The government provides capital upfront via loans.

As of July 2025, the period until which the report tracked progress, the PMSGY had received 57.9 lakh applications for residential rooftop solar installations. The scheme has facilitated the installation of 4,946 MW of rooftop solar capacity till July 2025 across various States and Union Territories, indicating "robust on-ground execution", the report said. Subsidy disbursements have crossed ₹9,281 crore ($1.05 billion), benefiting over 16 lakh households. As of July 2025, the 4.9 GW of installations added under the PMSGY accounted for approximately 44.5% of the country's total residential rooftop capacity.

The PM solar scheme only incentivises solar installations, whose component parts are entirely manufactured in India. Called "DCR-compliant modules", they are on average costlier by ₹12/watt over imported variants. "These higher prices are making larger residential installations less economically attractive," the report said.

"Establishing clear, time-bound rooftop solar capacity targets at the State level is essential for creating a coherent vision," said Vibhuti Garg, Director, IEEFA-South Asia, and a contributing author, in a statement.

Singur land meant for defenceless people: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held that land acquired for Tata Motors 'Nano' car project in Singur, West Bengal would not be restored to the industrial entities that had been operating there prior to its acquisition.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi clarified the scope of the court's 2016 ruling, which had quashed the acquisition proceedings for the Tata Motors plant and directed that the land be returned to its original owners within 12 weeks.

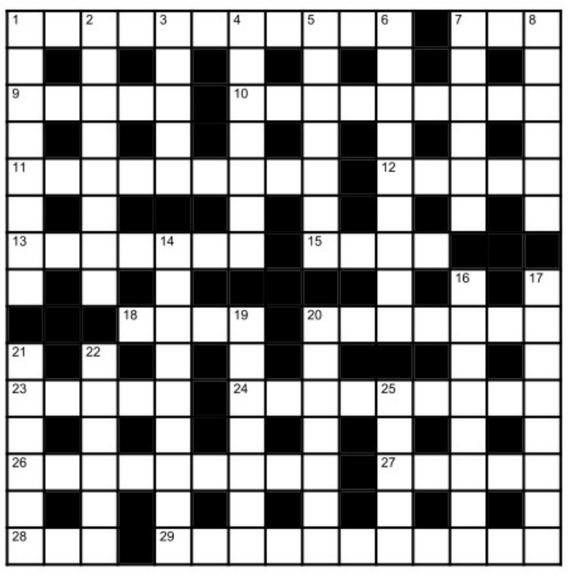
The Bench said the 2016 verdict was intended to protect the "genuinely defenceless", and that such protection could not be invoked by entities with the financial resources to contest governmental action.

TH CROSSWORD + 14613

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Act of doing something wrong in decline — managed the borders (2,9)
7 Tale centred on the hill (3)
9 Superb but not fast to reign supreme (5)
10 Development gone askew — reduced charge to enter (9)
11 Circulate online — say, it's cooked with onions (9)
12 Agree to a relationship with an animal (5)
13 Sensible to get out — it's part of habit (7)
15 Plant grown in hectares (4)
18 Starts increasing bank interest — suffering for one with a bill... (4)
20 ...could be bad sign for corporation (7)
23 Appeal to catch river fish (5)
24 State nominates randomly (9)
26 Unruly mob in oil rig creating a mess (9)
27 Emulating a game abandoned half way (5)
28 Not mother tongue song (3)
29 Harry Morgen's taking care of Cassandra, perhaps (11)

Down

1 Dreamer leaves fish on a table (8)
2 Under French law, work out modalities initially with the servant (8)
3 Completely exhausted after exposing mission (3,2)
4 I'm immersed in great composition of such music genre (7)
5 One's upturned nose is growing (7)
6 In love with a misleading demeanour (9)
7 After an inordinate wait, one supports a country (6)
8 Can probably get inside free showing rank (6)
14 A pound carried by a baggage train is a psychological burden (9)
16 Forcing self-admission from a model about work (8)
17 Cease to provoke and imperil (8)
19 Therefore, it's a country supported by a country (7)
20 Team on tour, taking interest in a group of reptiles, birds and mammals (7)
21 A material any time you want (2,4)
22 Perhaps brood over an unknown character — what do you call it? (6)
25 Time to support a bard (5)

SUDOKU

		1				3		5
					9		2	
	4	6				9		
				3	6			
3			5		8			2
			4	2				
		5				7	4	
	6		1					
1		8				6		

No.SS6670 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

■	F	L	O	R	A	L	■	R	A	I	S	E	D	■
■	I	■	F	■	D	■	■	■	D	■	U	■	I	■
O	R	L	A	N	D	O	■	C	O	R	R	E	C	T
■	S	■	P	■	I	■	H	■	R	■	N	■	K	■
A	T	T	R	A	C	T	I	V	E	■	A	R	T	S
■	■	■	I	■	T	■	G	■	■	■	M	■	R	■
■	B	A	L	T	I	■	H	I	S	S	E	D	A	T
■	R	■	■	■	O	■	F	■	T	■	■	■	C	■
M	E	T	H	A	N	O	L	■	E	S	S	A	Y	■
■	A	■	O	■	■	■	I	■	P	■	C	■	■	■
I	K	A	T	■	E	V	E	N	S	T	E	V	E	N
■	A	■	S	■	V	■	R	■	O	■	N	■	A	■
C	L	I	P	P	E	D	■	I	N	T	E	N	T	S
■	E	■	O	■	N	■	■	I	■	R	■	U	■	■
■	G	E	T	S	T	O	■	S	T	A	Y	U	P	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	2	9	6	3	4	8	5
8	3	4	7	1	5	9	6	2
9	5	6	2	4	8	3	7	1
5	1	3	4	7	9	8	2	6
2	9	8	6	3	1	5	4	7
6	4	7	5	8	2	1	9	3
3	6	1	8	2	4	7	5	9
4	2	5	1	9	7	6	3	8
7	8	9	3	5	6	2	1	4

FAITH

Lessons from Nala's life

The Mahabharata is hailed as the fifth Veda and whosoever listens to discourses from it, or simply reads the text at home will reap rich rewards. There are numerous life guides to be had from it. The Pandavas too gained valuable lessons from the life of Nala when they heard a discourse during *vana vasa*, said Damodhara Deekshithar.

Nala, the king of Nishadha, and Damayanthi, the Vidarbha princess, were acquainted with each other's sterling character although they had never met. When Damayanthi's *swayamvaram* was held, she chose Nala, who held her hand and promised to never let go of her as long as he lived.

Nala and Damayanthi lived happily for 12 years. All the while, *Sani* (Saturn) was waiting for a chance to enter Nala, but to no avail, since Nala adhered to dharma. However, one day, in a rush, he failed to wash his feet in entirety as ordained in sastras; the unwashed portion of the foot was all the entry Sani needed. Due to his presence, Nala lost everything in a game of dice and left for the forest with his wife. There, he lost his upper garment and Damayanthi draped her sari over him, securing them in a knot. Nala, who had promised to never let go of her, cut the binding cloth and escaped from her, after pointing her to the road to Vidarbha.

For the next 12 years, he lived as a charioteer and cook in Ayodhya king Rituparna's palace. A ruse by Damayanthi forced Nala and Rituparna to Vidarbha. En route, Nala taught Rituparna how to drive a chariot fast, at which point Sani exited Nala. Those who follow dharma can never lose in this life or the next.

INBRIEF

Jio Payments Bank wins contract for MLFF project

Jio Financial Services on Monday said its subsidiary Jio Payments Bank has secured a contract to implement the FASTag Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)-based MLFF collection system at two toll plazas between Gurugram and Jaipur. With this, Jio Payments Bank Ltd. has forayed into next-generation tolling services for Multi-Lane Free Flow road projects, which is an electronic toll collection system that eliminates physical toll booths. REUTERS

BMS introduces selective cardiac myosin inhibitor drug

Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) has unveiled a selective cardiac myosin inhibitor Kopozgo (Mavacamten). BMS builds on the company's strong presence in oncology and haematology, the firm said in a release on its decision to launch the drug to treat adults with symptomatic obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Mavacamten was approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation with an import license issued on March 6, 2025.

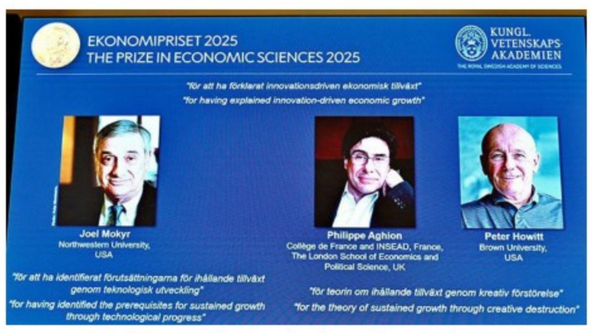
Tata Capital makes subdued debut, valuing at $15.78 billion

Tata Capital, India's third-largest non-bank lender by revenue, was muted in its debut trade on Monday, valuing the firm at ₹1.4 trillion ($15.78 billion), with investors seemingly not that keen on the first listing by the Tata Group in nearly two years. Tata Capital's subdued debut has come in a busy IPO market, where analysts say investors appear to favour LG Electronics India's $1.3-billion share sale as they expect stronger listing gains and near-term growth. REUTERS

Mokyr, Aghion and Howitt win Nobel economics prize

Winners are professors in U.S., French and British universities; prize worth $1.2 mn highlights work on innovation-driven economic growth

Reuters
STOCKHOLM


EKONOMIPRISET 2025
THE PRIZE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES 2025
KUNGL. VETENSKAPS AKADEMIEN
"för att ha förklarat innovationsdriven ekonomisk tillväxt"
"for having explained innovation-driven economic growth"
Joel Mokyr
Northwestern University, USA
Philippe Aghion
Collège de France and INSEAD, France, The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
Peter Howitt
Brown University, USA
"för att ha identifierat förutsättningarna för ihållande tillväxt genom teknologisk utveckling"
"for having identified the prerequisites for sustained growth through technological progress"
"för teorin om ihållande tillväxt genom kreativ förstörelse"
"for the theory of sustained growth through creative destruction"

Moment of pride: Visuals of Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt, recipients of the Nobel Economics prize. REUTERS

Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt won the 2025 Nobel economics prize for "having explained innovation-driven economic growth", the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said on Monday.

The prestigious award, formally known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, is the final prize to be given out this year and is worth 11 million Swedish Kronor ($1.2 million).

"The laureates have taught us that sustained growth cannot be taken for granted," the prize-awarding body said in a statement. Economic stagnation, not growth, has been the norm for most of human history. Their work shows that we must be aware of, and counteract, threats to continued growth."

Mr. Mokyr is a professor at Northwestern University, in Evanston in the United States, while Mr. Aghion is professor at the College de France and INSEAD, in Paris, and at the London School of Economics and Political Science, in Britain. Mr. Howitt is a professor at Brown University, in Providence in the United States. Mr. Mokyr was awarded half the prize with the other half being shared between Aghion and Howitt.

"Joel Mokyr used historical observations to identify the factors necessary for sustained growth based on technological innovations," John Hassler, member of the Nobel Committee, said.

Creative destruction

"Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt produced a mathematical model of creative destruction, an endless process in which new and better products replace the old."

The awards for medicine, physics, chemistry, peace and literature were announced last week.

Those prizes were established in the will of Swedish dynamite inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel and have been handed out since 1901, with a few interruptions mostly due to the world wars.

The economics prize was established much later, being given out first in 1969 when it was won by Norway's Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen from the Netherlands for work in dynamic economic modelling. Tinbergen's brother Nikolaas also won a prize, taking home Medicine in 1973.

While few economists are household names, relatively well-known winners include former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke, and Paul Krugman and Milton Friedman. Last year's economics award went to U.S.-based academics Simon Johnson, James Robinson and Daron Acemoglu for research that explored the relationship between colonisation and the establishment of public institutions to explain why some countries have been mired in poverty for decades.

HCLTech posts flat Q2 net profit at ₹4,235 cr.; revenue rises 11%

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

C. Vijayakumar

HCL Tech on Monday reported a flat net profit of ₹4,235 crore during the July-September quarter of FY26. However, sequentially, its net profit and revenue grew 10% and 5.2%, respectively. The company's Q2 revenue grew at ₹31,942 crore, up 11%, as against ₹28,862 crore it posted in the same quarter a year earlier. The company also declared an interim dividend of ₹12 per equity share for the financial year 2025-26.

On FY26 guidance, the company executives said at a press conference that its revenue growth was expected to be between 3-5% YoY in constant currency (CC), while the services revenue growth is expected to be between 4-5% YoY in CC. The Earnings Before Interest and Taxes (EBIT) margin is likely to remain between 17-18%.

MD & CEO C. Vijayakumar, in his commentary, called the quarter "a standout quarter on every front – marked by strong execution, growing demand for our AI-powered solutions, and Advanced AI revenue exceeding $100 mn this quarter." He further said the company's revenue grew 2.4% sequentially in constant currency with a strong recovery of operating margin to 17.5%.

"For the first time, our new bookings surpassed $2.5 billion, without reliance on any mega-deal. We added 3,489 people to our employee base while continuing to increase our revenue per employee 1.8% YoY aligned with our AI growth strategy."

HCLTech delivered strong INR revenue growth of 5.2% QoQ and 10.7% YoY in Q2 FY26, and this revenue growth was accompanied by enhanced profitability and solid cash generation, said Chief Financial Officer Shiv Walia.

According to Biswajit Maity, Sr Principal Analyst at Gartner, given the ongoing economic headwinds, global instability, and reduced budgets for non-essential technology initiatives, major Indian IT companies were anticipated to experience slower revenue growth.

"However, HCLTech's performance demonstrates resilience and adaptability in a challenging global IT landscape. In addition, they reported strong sequential growth in deal total contract value (TCV)," said Mr. Maity.

HCLTech reported a net addition of 3,489 employees, taking the total workforce count to 2,26,640. Attrition reduced to 12.6% in the quarter, from 12.9% in the year earlier period.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,327	-0.21
US Dollar	88.68	0.04
Gold	1,27,950	1.54
Brent oil	63.71	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2527.40	-23.50
Adani Ports	1437.80	28.40
Apollo Hosp	7671.00	-10.00
Asian Paints	2342.50	2.30
Axis Bank	1189.60	9.20
Bajaj Auto	9066.00	119.50
Bajaj Finserv	2020.40	16.10
Bajaj Finance	1036.75	12.90
Bharat Elec	409.40	-4.10
Bharti Airtel	1954.90	15.00
Cipla	1563.60	1.80
Coal India	381.55	-2.95
Dr Reddys Lab	1262.40	-2.00
Eicher Motors	6912.00	-53.00
Eternal Ltd.	348.35	0.05
Grasim Ind	2798.00	-13.00
HCL Tech	1494.70	-0.80
HDFC Bank	977.00	-3.90
HDFC Life	746.55	-0.75
Hindalco	770.20	-3.75
Hind Unilever	2492.80	-36.10
ICICI Bank	1379.40	-0.90
IntGlobeAvi	5787.50	52.50
Infosys	1493.20	-21.70
ITC	399.25	-3.55
Jio Financial Servic-es Ltd.	308.45	0.30
JSW Steel	1161.40	-6.40
Kotak Bank	2152.10	2.00
L&T	3769.50	-14.50
M&M	3459.70	4.80
Maruti Suzuki	16323.00	58.00
Max Healthcare	1143.30	-13.10
NestleIndia	1188.10	-11.40
NTPC	341.70	2.00
ONGC	244.09	-2.25
PowerGrid Corp	286.15	-3.00
Reliance Ind	1375.00	-6.70
SBI Life	1815.30	4.90
State Bank	882.95	2.30
Shriram Finance Ltd.	672.15	7.10
Sun Pharma	1668.40	-2.50
TataConsumerPro-duct	1117.00	-9.50
Tata Motors	660.75	-18.20
Tata Steel	173.03	-0.83
TCS	3007.20	-21.10
Tech Mahindra	1450.90	-6.30
Titan	3533.60	1.70
Trent Ltd.	4681.60	-9.50
UltraTech Cement	12172.00	-109.00
Wipro	245.13	-3.57

EXCHANGE RATES

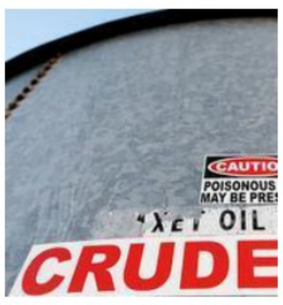
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	88.51	88.84
Euro	102.59	102.99
British Pound	118.03	118.48
Japanese Yen (100)	58.16	58.39
Chinese Yuan	12.41	12.52
Swiss Franc	110.17	110.59
Singapore Dollar	68.18	68.46
Canadian Dollar	63.20	63.46
Malaysian Ringitt	20.92	21.05
Australian Dollar	57.73	57.95

Source:Indian Bank

Indian refiners cut Russian oil imports by 45% between June and Sept.: Kpler data

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI



Private refiners RIL and Nayara Energy, have increased their uptake. REUTERS

State-owned refiners trimmed down purchases of Russian oil by more than 45% between June and September this year, according to data from real-time maritime and analytics provider Kpler.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Naveen Das, Senior Crude Oil Analyst at Kpler said state-owned refiners took 600 thousand barrels/day (kb/d) of oil from Russia in September, a "fairly substantial" cut from 1.1 million barrels/day they took in June this year.

The trimming down of Russian oil imports fall against a larger geopolitical setting centred around U.S. President Donald Trump imposing 50% tariff on imports from India this August. This included a 25% penalty for buying Russian oil. Washington has been adamant that New Delhi halt their crude purchases from Moscow as a precondition to negotiate a favourable trade deal.

India has been steadfast on its commitment to maintaining domestic energy security. New Delhi has been procuring Russian oil at a discount after the latter found itself mired in sanctions following their actions in Ukraine.

While Indian state-run refiners have cut purchases from Moscow, India's privately-owned refiners, Reliance Industries and Russia's Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy, have raised their uptake. According to Kpler data, RIL now imports 850 kb/d of Russian oil, more than double the 420 kb/d it was importing in January. Nayara imported nearly 400 kb/d in October - its highest this year.

Insurance brokers body raise issue of GST burden

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Insurance Brokers Association of India (IBAI) has urged the General Insurance Council for an industry dialogue on transfer of Goods and Services Tax (GST) burden to intermediaries.

It also "raised concerns over market conduct, urging the Council to advise insurers to honour existing commission arrangements, avoid discouraging the servicing of retail health policies and consult intermediaries before altering remuneration terms." IBAI said this after its leadership submitted a representation to GI Council Chairman Tapan Singhel on Monday.

Taliban Minister calls for easing visa regime, enhanced trade

Kallol Kanti Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Amir Khan Muttaqi

Taliban administration's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi Monday pitched for greater connectivity between India and Afghanistan and said the visa regime between the two sides must be liberalised to facilitate greater people-to-people contact.

Speaking at a business event at the FICCI house, Mr. Muttaqi called for enhanced trade in fresh fruits and in the mining sector.

Mr. Muttaqi said the Taliban administration will ensure peaceful atmosphere for Indian industrial entities and called upon Indian pharmaceutical industry majors to to set up manufacturing units in Afghanistan. "Your side should consider it as it will certainly be a profitable venture," he added.

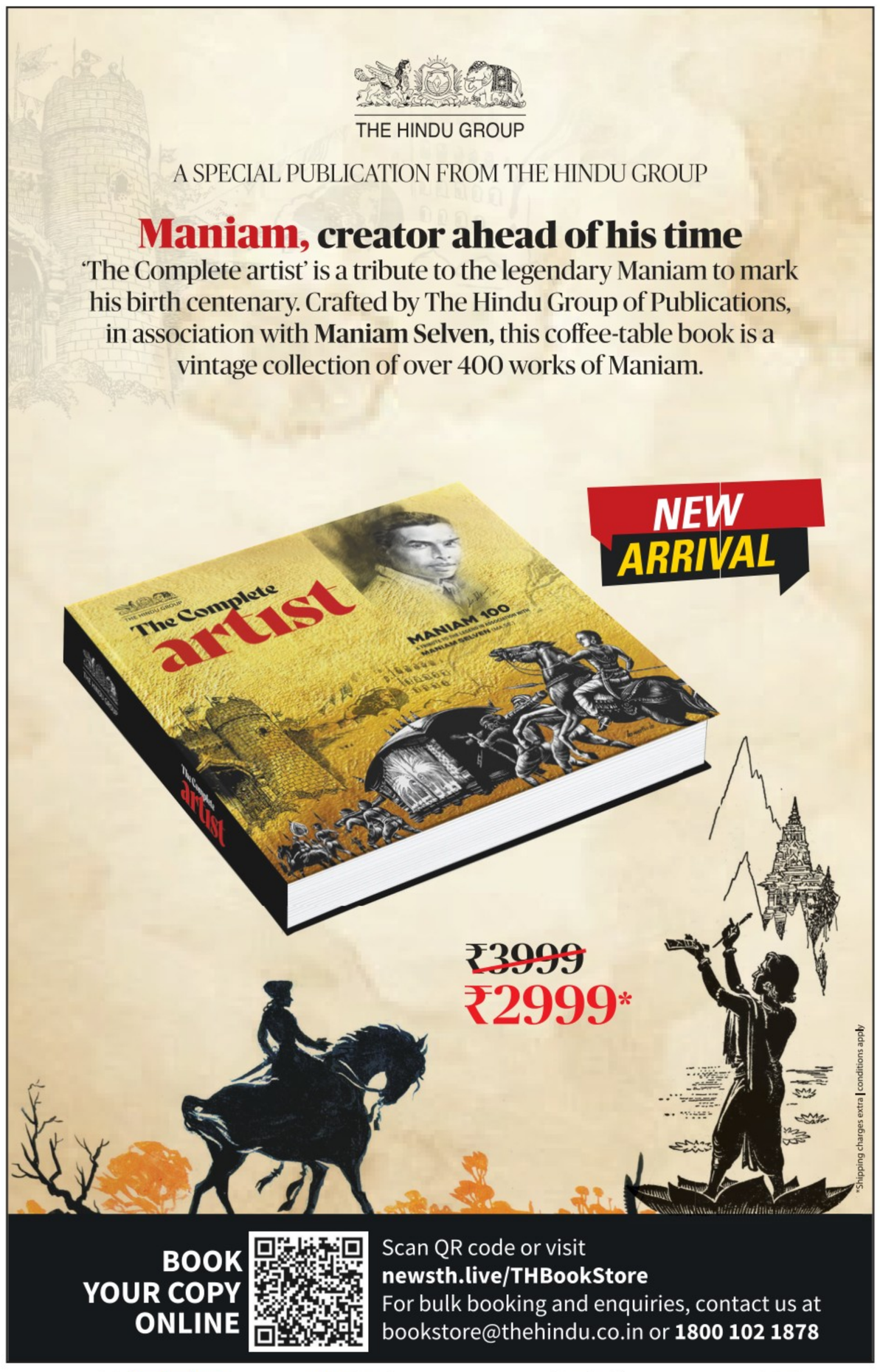
Auto spare parts start-up Partnr plans to expand to 50 cities

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Partnr works with over 20,000 garages across India and operates a network of 90 dark stores

Partnr, a quick-commerce platform for automotive spare parts, currently for two-wheelers, and catering to neighbourhood mechanics, has announced plans to expand its operations from the current 30 cities to 50 cities in India.

"We are expanding our footprint to over 50 cities, ensuring deeper hyperlocal reach for mechanics and workshops across India. We will also be foraying into the 4-wheeler aftermarket to serve a wider base of automotive stakeholders," said Vishal Dubey, founder & CEO, Partnr. "We are also scaling doorstep servicing nationwide so riders can book a mechanic via the Partnr app and get their vehicle serviced at home, work place, or on the go," he added. Partnr works with over 20,000 garages across India and operates a network of 90 dark stores.


THE HINDU GROUP
A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP
Maniam, creator ahead of his time
'The Complete artist' is a tribute to the legendary Maniam to mark his birth centenary. Crafted by The Hindu Group of Publications, in association with Maniam Selven, this coffee-table book is a vintage collection of over 400 works of Maniam.
NEW ARRIVAL
The Complete artist
MANIAM 100
₹3999
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HAVANA

Cuban Opposition leader Daniel Ferrer goes into exile in the U.S.

AFP

Cuban dissident Jose Daniel Ferrer was freed from prison and put on a plane to the U.S. where he will live in exile with his family, officials said. Mr. Ferrer, who has been imprisoned multiple times as the long-term leader of the island's pro-democracy movement, has said he opted for exile after suffering "torture" behind bars. AFP

OSLO

Venezuela closes Norway embassy after Machado is awarded Nobel

AFP

Norway on Monday said Venezuela had closed its embassy in Oslo, without giving a reason, days after opposition leader Maria Corina Machado was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. "We have been informed by the embassy of Venezuela that it is shutting its doors and no reason has been given," Foreign Ministry said. AFP

BEIJING

China detains underground church pastors in crackdown

REUTERS

Police in China detained dozens of pastors of one of its largest underground churches over the weekend. The detentions, which come amid renewed China-U.S. tensions, drew condemnation from U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who called on Sunday for the pastors' immediate release. REUTERS

ANTANANARIVO

Celebrations in Madagascar ahead of embattled President's address

REUTERS

Soldiers joined hundreds celebrating in Madagascar's capital on Monday, hours before President Andry Rajoelina was due to address the nation following weeks of protests and growing calls for his resignation. He has not appeared in public since last Wednesday, fuelling speculation that he may have fled the country. AFP

After Gaza truce, Trump vies for peace deal with Iran

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said he wanted a peace deal with Iran, after the U.S. joined Israel in striking the Islamic republic's nuclear sites during a brief war earlier this year.

"They got it from one side, from the other, and you know it would be great if we could make a peace deal with them," Mr. Trump said of Iran, a key backer of the Palestinian militant group Hamas, during a speech to Israel's parliament. "Would you be happy with that? Wouldn't it be nice, I think. Because I think they want to." Mr. Trump said the ball was in Tehran's court for any deal to come to pass.

Trump asks Israel to work towards West Asia peace in Knesset speech

U.S. President gets a hero's welcome in parliament where he seeks pardon for PM Benjamin Netanyahu who is facing corruption charges; Trump arrives in Egypt for a global summit with more than two dozen other nations on Gaza's future

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

U.S. President Donald Trump told Israeli lawmakers on Monday that their country had no more to achieve on the battlefield and must work toward peace in West Asia after two years of war against Hamas and skirmishes with Hezbollah and Iran.

"Generations from now, this will be remembered as the moment that everything began to change," he declared to the Knesset, which welcomed him as a hero.

In an unexpected detour, Mr. Trump called on the Israeli President to pardon Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whom he described as "one of the greatest" wartime leaders. Mr. Netanyahu faces corruption charges, although several hearings have been postponed during the conflict with Hamas.

Proud moment: Israeli lawmakers gave Donald Trump a standing ovation at the country's parliament where he spoke on Monday. AP

Mr. Trump pressed Israel to look past the war, saying the country "has won all that they can by force of arms." "You have won. I mean, you have won," he said. "Now it is time to translate these victories against terrorists on the battlefield into the ultimate prize of peace and prosperity for the entire Middle East [West Asia]."

Mr. Trump promised to help rebuild Gaza, which has been devastated during the conflict, and urged Palestinians to "turn forever from the path of terror and violence." "After tremendous pain and death and hardship," he said, "now is the time to concentrate on building their people up instead of trying to tear Israel down."

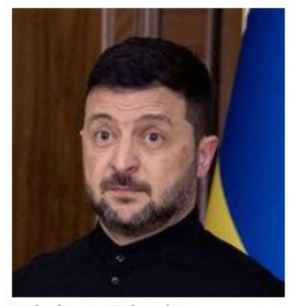
The U.S. President arrived in Egypt for a global summit with more than two dozen other nations on Gaza's future.

Israeli lawmakers chanted Mr. Trump's name and gave him a standing ovation. Some people in the audience wore red hats that resembled his "Make America Great Again" caps, although these versions said "Trump, The Peace President." Mr. Netanyahu hailed Mr. Trump as "the greatest friend Israel has ever had in the White House" and he promised to work with him.

"Mr President, you are committed to this peace. I am committed to this peace," he said. "And together, Mr. President, we will achieve this peace."

Gaza deal serves as a source of hope for Ukraine: Zelenskyy

Agence France-Presse
KYIV



Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday hailed the "extraordinary" Gaza ceasefire as bringing hope that U.S. President Donald Trump could broker an end to the Russian invasion of his country.

"When peace is achieved for one part of the world, it brings more hope for peace in other regions," Mr. Zelenskyy said on social media.

He added: "If a ceasefire and peace have been achieved for the Middle East [West Asia], the leadership and determination of global actors can certainly work for us too, in Ukraine."

Mr. Trump had once vowed he could end the war in a matter of hours, but despite several rounds of talks and a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, there has been no significant progress towards a peace deal.

Meanwhile, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz also urged Mr. Trump to carry the momentum from brokering the Gaza deal into efforts on Ukraine.

Pak. troops on high alert on Afghan border after clashes

Reuters
PESHAWAR/KABUL

Pakistani troops were on high alert on the border with Afghanistan on Monday after fierce fighting between the two sides at the weekend left dozens dead and drew the attention of U.S. President Donald Trump, who said he could help end the conflict.

Border trade between the neighbours came to a halt as Pakistan closed crossings along the 2,600-km frontier, stranding scores of loaded goods vehicles on either side, a Pakistani industry representative said.

Dozens of fighters were killed in border clashes that began on Saturday night in the most deadly conflict between the neighbours since the Taliban returned to power in Kabul in 2021.

Truck drivers enjoy a meal as they sit by their vehicles along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border town of Torkham on Monday. AFP

Fighting between the two sides, who were once allies, erupted after Islamabad demanded the Taliban take action against militants who have stepped up attacks in Pakistan, saying they operate from havens in Afghanistan.

The Taliban deny that Pakistani militants are present in Afghanistan.

The Pakistan military said that 23 of its soldiers were killed in the weekend clashes. The Taliban said nine of its fighters were killed. Both sides said they had killed more on the other side, but the claims could not be verified.

China calls on Pakistan and Afghanistan to end conflict

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

China on Monday urged Pakistan and Afghanistan to exercise restraint and resolve their mutual concerns through dialogue and consultations.

Recently, conflicts have occurred between Pakistan and Afghanistan, leading to tense relations, which we are deeply concerned about, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a media briefing. "China sincerely hopes that both sides will focus on the broader picture, adhere to resolving mutual concerns through dialogue and consultationand jointly maintain peace and stability in the region," he said.

Syrian Democratic Forces strike a draft deal to merge troops with regular Army

Agence France-Presse
HASAKEH

Syrian Kurdish leader Mazloum Abdi has announced that he had reached a "preliminary agreement" with Damascus on the integration of his troops into Syria's military and security forces.

Mr. Abdi, who heads the powerful Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), had met Syrian interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa [Muhammad al-Jolani] in Damascus last week, along with U.S. envoy Tom Barrack and U.S. commander Brad Cooper.

While the Kurdish forces – who control large swathes of Syria's oil-rich northeast – had signed an agreement with the new Syrian authorities in March to merge their civil and military institutions, the deal's terms were not implemented.

The SDF played a vital role in the fight against the IS in Syria, which led to the group's defeat in the country in 2019. REUTERS

"The most important point is having reached a preliminary agreement regarding the mechanism for integrating the SDF and the (Kurdish) Internal Security Forces within the framework of defence and interior ministries," Mr. Abdi said at a military base in Hasakeh. Mr. Abdi said that military and security delegations from his forces are currently in Damascus to discuss the mechanism for their integration.

The Washington-backed SDF and Kurdish security forces consist of around 1 lakh men and women members, according to them.

The SDF played a vital role in the fight against the Islamic State group in Syria, which ultimately led to the jihadist organisation's territorial defeat in the country in 2019.

SOCIETY FOR EMPLOYMENT GENERATION & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT IN ANDHRA PRADESH (SEEDAP)
2nd floor, NTR Administrative Block, PN Bus Stand, Vijayawada, AP-520 002

NOTIFICATION

Ref: No: 16/SEEDAP/ADMN/2025 **Dt: 14.10.2025**

SEEDAP Invites applications from eligible candidates with relevant qualifications and experience for the recruitment of SPMs for enterprise development programs.

S No	Position name	No. of positions	Min Exp	Consolidated pay Per month (Rs.)
1	State Project Managers - Enterprise development	4	10+years	75,000-1,00,000

Availability of Detailed Notification: **11.10.2025** at **http://seedap.ap.gov.in** Last Date for Submission of Applications: **25.10.2025**. Detailed CV with Credentials shall be emailed to **edpseedap@gmail.com**

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OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES ZONE, UDAIPUR
Near Akashvani, Chetak Circle, Udaipur (Rajasthan) 313001
Phone no.: 0294-2414794 Email:- aceudaipur2019@gmail.com

Ao.-ACE/Actt.III/Bhilwara/F.428/2025-26/8926 Dated:- 03/10/2025

E-NIT No. 08/2025-26

Bids for the following work are invited from interested bidders upto 6:00 PM, dated 27-10-2025

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated. Cost of Work (Rs. In lacs)
1.	Balance Work of Renovation of Main Canal of Meja dam Tehsil Mandal, Banera Bhilwara District Bhilwara	842.15

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/ wrd
UBN :- WRD2526WLOB01055

Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/14893/2025 Water Resources Zone, Udaipur

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION VIZAG

"e" Procurement Tender Notice
No. 1/2025-26/SE(P)/EE-(PD-I)/DB/GVMC.10.10.2025
Number of works 02, Value of works Rs. 4.00 Crores
Tender Opening Dt. 13.10.2025, Closing Date. 28.10.2025
Note: Further details at **http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
O/o the EE(PD-I) Cell No. 9848308824 **For Commissioner,GVMC**

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
BANGALORE-560 012

IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2025-26/ **Date: 10.10.2025**

Tender Notification- IISc/Tender-ELE-04/2025-26

Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform **https://eprocure.gov.in**. Any specialised firms company registered under KPWD /CPWD/ railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of **Class I/Class A Electrical Contractors** are eligible to apply for the work of **"Annual Operation and Maintenance of HT & LT Electrical installations in IISc Campus, Bangalore 2025-2026."** Estimated Cost of Project is **Rs.1,67,52,228.00/-.** Last date of receipt of application is **30th October 2025 at 1530Hrs.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail **office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in** **REGISTRAR**

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
O/o The Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ),GHMC, Hyderabad
Tender Notice No. 13/SE(P-WZ)/GHMC/2025-26/ Dated: 13.10.2025

Item No.	Name of the Work
1.	Project Management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, construction supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of Construction of Multi level Flyover / Grade Separators at RethiBowli and Nanal Nagar Junction under Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC)/Turnkey Basis.
2.	Project Management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, construction supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of "Construction of 3 lane flyover on LHS (towards Ameerpet) and 3 lane flyover on RHS of NH 65 (towards Miyapur) at Kukatpally "Y" Junction under Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC)/Turnkey Basis".

S. No.	Events	Date and Time
1.	Start date	16-10-2025 from 04.00 PM
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting	22-10-2025 at 03.00 PM, Location: O/o Chief Engineer (Projects), GHMC 6th Floor, GHMC Head Office Tank Bund, Hyderabad
3.	Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids	30-10-2025 upto 03.00 PM
4.	Opening of Technical bid	30-10-2025 at 04.00 PM
5.	Opening of Price bid	01-11-2025 after 04.00 PM

Note: The Bidders are advised to visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in to download Bid Document and EPC project Tender Drawings. Any Queries can be addressed to sesrdppwz@gmail.com Address of the officer concerned Sri. G. Sree Lakshmi, SE(P-WZ) Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement **https://tender.telangana.gov.in**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
DIPR R.O.No.9116-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 13.10.2025 **(Projects-WZ), GHMC**

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E-Mail : sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in; Ph.No.06764-236404
Government of Odisha
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul

TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR BRIDGE WORKS IN ODISHA
Bid Identification No. Bridge Online AGL-16/2025-26

No. 3017 // Dt. 25.09.25 //

1. Name of the Work : Bridge Works
2. Total No. of Work : 15 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.235.74 Lakhs to Rs.714.53 Lakhs (Approx.)
4. Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion: As per Annexure
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Bridge Online -AGL-16/2025-26	15.10.25 at 10.00 A.M.	29.10.25 up to 5.00 P.M.	28.10.25 up to 1.00 P.M.	30.10.25 at 10.00 AM	Will be intimated separately

(1) For detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.
O-916: OIPR-25180/11/0083/2526

TOP OF THE CHARTS

Mohammed Siraj becomes highest wicket-taker in Tests this year

R.V. MOORTHY

India seamer Mohammed Siraj on Monday became the highest wicket-taker in Tests in 2025. Siraj surpassed Zimbabwe pacer Blessing Muzarabani when he dismissed Shai Hope during the fourth day of the second Test against the West Indies. Siraj has 37 wickets at an average of 26.91 from eight matches this year.

HINDSIGHT

Employing the reverse sweep a miscalculation, says Campbell

R.V. MOORTHY

Centurion John Campbell was pleased with West Indies showing fight against India. "Having not had the best first innings, we came out and batted 100-plus overs in the second innings. That is a big positive for us," he said. Regarding the reverse sweep that led to his wicket, he added: "It was a little bit of a miscalculation on my part".

INCREDIBLE

'The real out-of-body experience when warming up in the car park'

K.R. DEEPAK

The real out-of-body experience was when I was warming up in the car park to check if I could actually run. So a huge thank you and apology to Kate Beerworth [physio] who spent a lot of time on me. It was nice to go out and get the win in the end — Ellyse Perry, on coming back to bat after retiring in the 24th over against India.

MEMORABLE INNINGS

Shorna smashes fastest fifty in women's World Cup history

K.R. DEEPAK

Shorna Akter registered the fastest half-century in women's World Cup history, getting to the mark in 33 balls against South Africa. Alyssa Healy (34 balls) previously held the record. Shorna's fifty is the fastest by a Bangladeshi woman. Meanwhile, Nigar Sultana became the first captain from her country to score 1000 ODI runs.

India needs 58 runs on final day to complete sweep

The last-wicket partnership of 79 between Greaves and Seales frustrates the home side; overnight batters Campbell and Hope notch up hundreds; Kuldeep and Bumrah claim three wickets apiece

WI IN INDIA

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

A 10th-wicket partnership of 79 runs between the West Indian pair of Justin Greaves and Jayden Seales frustrated India and took the second Test at the Arun Jaitley Stadium to a fifth day. When Shubman Gill's bowling attack snared six wickets in an extended second session on Monday, it seemed like the lengthening of shadows would correspond with the conclusion of the game.

But Greaves and Seales stitched together the second-highest stand for the last wicket for West Indies against India in Tests, a nod to the spirit of the visitor's second innings where it displayed far greater resolve after being asked to follow on. It resulted in India's bowlers having to deliver 200 overs on the trot across both innings.

By virtue of the partnership, the team from the Caribbean ended with a total of 390 in 118.5 overs, leaving the Indians with a target of 121. At stumps on the fourth day, the host was 63 for one in 18 overs, requiring another 58 runs with nine wickets in hand for a 2-0 series sweep. Yashasvi Jaiswal was hoping to get the job done on Monday evening, but his eagerness meant he hit Jomel Warrican to long-on in the second over of the chase. In West Indies' second innings, Kuldeep Yadav and Jasprit Bumrah claimed three wickets apiece.

The day began with John Campbell and Shai Hope looking to build on their steely efforts on the previous evening. Although both went on to register centuries, their partnership, which had swelled to 177 runs, ended when Campbell was dismissed on 115. He had brought up his first-ever Test hundred with a slog sweep for six off Ravindra Jadeja, but a reverse sweep against the same bowler went awry.

The second new ball came in handy for India, with Siraj managing to get Hope to inside-edge one onto the stumps in the 84th over. It wasn't before the 31-year-old raised his bat for his first ton in eight years. Kuldeep dismissed Tevin Imlach, Roston Chase and Khary Pierre in the space of just 11 deliveries.

Once Bumrah cleaned up Jomel Warrican and induced a nick from Anderson Phillip, West Indies was reduced to 311 for nine at 1.52 p.m with a slim lead of 41 runs. When Seales flicked Bumrah to Washington Sundar at deep square leg 22 overs later, the lead had increased to 120 and the clock had ticked to 3.35 p.m. For now, it means that the teams will return to action at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Chipping away: Bumrah celebrates with teammates after sending back Phillip. R.V. MOORTHY

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
518/5 decl. in 134.2 overs

WEST INDIES — 1ST INNINGS
248 in 81.5 overs

WEST INDIES — 2ND INNINGS
John Campbell lbw b Jadeja 115 *(199b, 12x4, 3x6)*, Tagenarine Chanderpaul c Gill b Siraj 10 *(30b, 1x4)*, Alick Athanaze b Washington 7 *(17b, 1x4)*, Shai Hope b Siraj 103 *(214b, 12x4, 2x6)*, Roston Chase c sub (Padikkal) b Kuldeep 40 *(72b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Tevin Imlach lbw b Kuldeep 12 *(13b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Justin Greaves (not out) 50 *(85b, 3x4)*, Khary Pierre c Nitish b Kuldeep 0 *(2b)*, Jomel Warrican b Bumrah 3 *(6b)*, Anderson Phillip c Jurel b Bumrah 2 *(10b)*, Jayden Seales c Washington b Bumrah 32 *(67b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-7, lb-7, nb-2): 16; Total (in 118.5 overs): 390.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-17 (Chanderpaul, 8.3 overs), 2-35 (Athanaze, 14.3), 3-212 (Campbell, 63.3), 4-271 (Hope, 83.5), 5-293 (Imlach, 89.3), 6-298 (Chase, 91.3), 7-298 (Pierre, 91.5), 8-307 (Warrican, 94.2), 9-311 (Phillip, 96.5).

INDIA BOWLING
Siraj 15-3-43-2, Jadeja 33-10-102-1, Washington 23-3-80-1, Kuldeep 29-4-104-3, Bumrah 17.5-5-44-3, Jaiswal 1-0-3-0.

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS (Target 121)
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Phillip b Warrican 8 *(7b, 2x4)*, K.L. Rahul (batting) 25 *(54b, 2x4)*, B. Sai Sudharsan (batting) 30 *(47b, 5x4)*; Total (for one wkt. in 18 overs): 63.

FALL OF WICKET
1-9 (Jaiswal, 1.3).

WEST INDIES BOWLING
Seales 3-0-14-0, Warrican 7-1-15-1, Pierre 6-0-24-0, Chase 2-0-10-0.

Need to be more patient on such tracks: Washington

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

When Washington Sundar returned to the Test side after a gap of three years against New Zealand last year, the all-rounder instantly impressed with his off-spin with 16 wickets in two Tests in Pune and Mumbai. But while those pitches were square-turners that backfired on the Indian team, the 2025-26 home season has seen Shubman Gill and Co. play on more placid, batting-friendly surfaces.

Particularly at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in the second Test, a typically docile strip has compelled the Indian bowlers to toil long and hard for their wickets.

"After bowling 13 wicketless overs in the first innings, the finger-spinner from Chennai had just one scalp in 23 overs to show for his efforts in the second essay.

"The wicket did not have much bounce. And obviously, there wasn't a lot of turn on offer also in this game. But yeah, different venues play quite differently and that's the beauty about this format in particular. We try and assess what's really required for us to do in those conditions," said the 26-year-old.

From Washington's perspective, patience is paramount on such decks.

"On this kind of a wicket, you just need to be a lot more patient and hit those areas more consistently. That's the challenge. It's very heartening to have actually taken 20 wickets as a team on a wicket like this," he added.

Hopes dashed: It was hard work for the Indian bowlers, including Siraj who put an end to centurion Hope's stint. R.V. MOORTHY

South Africa holds nerve, edges past Bangladesh

ODI WORLD CUP

Anirudh Velamuri
VISAKHAPATNAM

It was a game that shouldn't have been the struggle it was, but South Africa seldom does things the easy way.

All the adrenaline from the India win was quickly tranquilised by a spirited Bangladesh batting and bowling effort, but the Proteas found a way to dig out an identical three-wicket victory in a women's World Cup league fixture at here on Monday.

Chasing 233, South Africa stumbled early, with Tazmin Brits falling for a second consecutive duck. Laura Wolvaardt and Anneke Bosch added 55 runs before their quick dismissals gave Bangladesh hopes of an unlikely win.

Annerie Dercksen and Sinalo Jafta were sent back early, but Marizanne Kapp and Chloe Tryon's 85-run stand steadied the ship. The two registered half-centuries to give their side an upper hand. They fell with 35 runs needed from 31 balls and Nadine de Klerk, as she did against India, sealed a nail-biter for South Africa.

Earlier, Bangladesh openers Fargana Hoque and Rubya Haider put 53 runs in 15 overs before the partnership was broken.

Sharmin Akhter and Nigar Sultana added 77 from 91 balls. With the run rate less than four after the loss of the pair, Shorna Akter began swinging her willow.

She also had the rub of the green when a possible run out instead saw her register a maiden half-century. Alas, Shorna anticlimactically dropped de Klerk in the penultimate over of the chase, letting what would have been a famous win slip through.

Calming influence: Tryon put the South African chase back on track in the company of Kapp. K.R. DEEPAK

The scores: Bangladesh 232/6 in 50 overs (Shorna Akter 51 n.o., Sharmin Akhter 50, Nigar Sultana 32, Fargana Hoque 30) lost to South Africa 235/7 in 49.3 overs (Chloe Tryon 62, Marizanne Kapp 56, Nadine de Klerk 37 n.o., Laura Wolvaardt 31).

Toss: Bangladesh; **PoM:** Tryon.

NZ meets SL, looks to sustain momentum

Kavita Menon
COLOMBO

For New Zealand, a change in venue proved useful. After losing its first two matches in Indore, Sophie Devine's side hit the stride in Guwahati with a win over Bangladesh in the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup.

But when the White Ferns take on Sri Lanka on Tuesday, their main challenge will be adapting to the tricky playing environment at the R. Premadasa Stadium here on Tuesday.

New Zealand has benefitted largely from its skipper's purple patch and Brooke Halliday's handy knocks, but will hope to see more contributions from its top-order, especially veteran Suzie Bates. The opener can draw confidence from her impressive 78.71 average against Sri Lanka.

However, the team will also be wary of the home side springing a few surprises. "They're a really dangerous side, particularly in their home conditions. We've had experience with that before," recalled Maddy Green ahead of the match. Sri Lanka could draw some confidence from the 2023 series win at Galle.

In their recent loss to England, the Lankans faltered in all departments and will hope to recalibrate. The in-form Inoka Ranaweera, who has seven wickets in two matches, will be key to unsettling New Zealand.

The batters will also look to Chamari Athapaththu to leverage her record against the Kiwis: the captain has two hundreds and three fifties in 13 innings, with both tons coming in the 2-1 series victory.

Today's Match

Colombo, 3 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD ODIs
Played: 16
Sri Lanka: 2 | New Zealand: 13
NR 1

IN WORLD CUPS
Played: 5
Sri Lanka: 0 | New Zealand: 5

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

India's World Cup campaign requires a quick turnaround

Anirudh Velamuri
VISAKHAPATNAM

There was little respite for head coach Amol Muzumdar after Australia completed a record chase against India in a league stage clash of the women's World Cup at the ACA-VDCA Stadium here on Sunday.

Among the many things he was grilled about by the press was the guidance provided to batters, or the lack of it, to convert a good start into a total in excess of 350.

"Yes, of course. What do you think? Do we guide them or not?" he replied.

That this interaction happened on a day when the top-order finally came good in the tournament was an indication of the manner and magnitude of the defeat. Back-to-back losses have left India no option but to have some uncomfortable conversations about its combinations and execution.

Dot ball percentage

India registered a worrying 127 dot balls against Sri Lanka (42.8%), 173 against Pakistan (55.7), 185 against South Africa (58.4), and 128 against Australia (45.2). Among the top five, Pratika Rawal registered a 60.8 dot ball percentage, Smriti Mandhana (56.4), Harleen Deol (54.6), Jemimah Rodrigues (53.9), and Harmanpreet Kaur (53.1) in the four games. Compare this to their numbers from the year overall, and Harleen tops the chart with 62.8. Pratika follows with 60.8.

During this World Cup, India has seen Smriti fall cheaply in its first three games, after which Harleen and Pratika struggle to maintain a sprightly scoring tempo with strike rates of 74.74 and 72.58, respectively.

Having Pratika's solidity contributed greatly to Smriti unlocking an aggressive gear in her batting. Pratika admitted the pacing issue, and given she's still taking her baby steps in international cricket, working on this element can greatly contribute to fewer palpitations early on for India.

Bowling options

Having just five bowlers has limited skipper Harmanpreet's options when the going gets tough.

India has traditionally veered towards a five-batter five-bowler line-up.

The same strategy has been used in the World Cup, with workloads leading to switches between Renuka Singh and Amanjot Kaur.

Sixth option

Harmanpreet has had to come in as the sixth option recently. Pratika also rolls her arm from time to time.

In comparison, Australia (eight), South Africa (seven), New Zealand (six) and England (seven) have a lot more bowling options at their disposal.

India smartly uses Radha Yadav's athleticism on the field by subbing her in. Surely, her all-around abilities can be put to better use with a place in the XI?

Changes are the need of the hour with a must-win game against England on October 19, lest it all becomes too little, too late – if it already hasn't.

Slow coach: Harleen has struggled to get into top gear. K.R. DEEPAK

INBRIEF

Defending champion Steelers return to winning ways

Haryana Steelers beat Patna Pirates 39-32 in PKL-12 in New Delhi on Monday. Steelers came back well after trailing at the end of the first-half, to break its five-match losing streak and moved to sixth place in the standings. Jaideep Dahiya led the way with a High Five, recording six tackles, while Shivam Patare completed a Super 10. Later, UP Yoddhas defeated U Mumba 40-24.

Bengaluru Torpedoes registers fourth straight win

Bengaluru Torpedoes beat Chennai Blitz 17-15, 14-16, 17-15, 16-14 in a Prime Volleyball League match in Hyderabad on Monday. Torpedoes registered its fourth straight win. Joel Benjamin was adjudged the player-of-the-match.

India's Paris Olympic medallists felicitated by IOA

The country's 2024 Paris Olympics medallists, including Neeraj Chopra and Manu Bhaker, were on Monday felicitated with cash awards by the IOA in New Delhi. Neeraj could not receive the award in person. An AF) official collected the ₹75 lakh cheque from Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. Manu first received ₹50 lakh for her bronze in the individual 10m air pistol and then shared ₹50 lakh with Sarabjot Singh for third-place finish in mixed 10m air pistol team event.

Blue Colts held by Indonesia; u-17 girls beat Kyrgyz Republic

The India under-23 men's team was held 1-1 by Indonesia in their second friendly in Jakarta on Monday. Korou Singh Thingujam (47) put the Blue Colts ahead before Dony Tri Pamungkas (71) equalised. Meanwhile, captain Julan Nongmaithem scored in stoppage time as India began its AFC u-17 Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers campaign with a 2-1 win over Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek. After setting up Pearl Fernandes for India's first goal in the 27th, Julan struck late. Akmaral Saiakbaeva had scored for the host in the 33rd minute.

Kudus the hero as Ghana seals a World Cup spot

Mohammed Kudus scored in the 47th minute as Ghana beat Comoros 1-0 in Accra on Sunday to win Group I and become the fifth African qualifier for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

McIlroy arrives in New Delhi to a roaring welcome

Rory McIlroy landed in New Delhion Monday to a warm welcome for the $4 million DP World India Championship, the richest professional golf event to be staged in the country, beginning on Thursday. Tommy Fleetwood is also part of the star-studded field.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs West Indies: 2nd Test, day 5, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.

Women's ODI World Cup: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3 p.m.

Afghanistan vs Bangladesh: 3rd ODI, FanCode, 5.30 p.m.

PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 p.m.

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.

Football: European WC Qualifiers: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Wednesday)

Singapore snuffs out India's medal hopes

Plucky Yashaswini and Manika fight back to level tie for the host; however, Tan clinches the decider with a straight-game win over Diya; China enters the semifinals in both sections

ASIAN TT

Amol Karhadkar
BHUBANESWAR

Impressive: Yashaswini brought India back into contention with a composed show. BISWARANJAN ROUT

So near, yet so far. That summed up India's evening at the 28th Asian Table Tennis Team Championship at Kalinga Stadium, as its women's hopes of defending the bronze medal were dashed by Singapore in a quarterfinal that went down to the deciding match.

Despite conceding the first two rubbers, India clawed its way back through Yashaswini Ghorpade and Manika Batra to level the tie 2-2. But in the decider, Diya Chitale wilted under pressure against the defensive Tan Zhao Yun, whose remarkable consistency sealed Singapore's passage into the semifinals.

India will rue the missed chances – especially in the opening two encounters – that tilted the momentum early. For Singapore, though, Tan's defensive mastery proved the ultimate weapon. Her control and variation not only unsettled Manika in the opening match but also dismantled Diya's rhythm when it mattered the most.

While Diya struggled to find answers against Tan's relentless returns, Manika seemed hesitant to go for forehand winners against the same opponent, which cost her the opener. The lanky Indian, however, made amends later by outsmarting veteran Zeng Jian to bring India level.

Zeng, in turn, used her experience to outplay Diya in her first outing, putting Singapore on the brink of victory before Yashaswini kept India alive with a composed performance. Mixing her long-pimpled backhand with timely forehand drives, the youngster displayed maturity beyond her years. In the end, though, Tan's defence stood like a wall India couldn't breach.

The results:

Quarterfinals: Women: Singapore bt India 3-2 (Tan Zhao Yun bt Manika Batra 11-8, 11-7, 6-11, 11-8; Zeng Jian bt Diya Chitale 3-11, 12-10, 11-9, 5-11, 11-9; Ser Lin Qian lost to Yashaswini Ghorpade 7-11, 8-11, 8-11; Zeng lost to Manika 9-11, 11-8, 8-11, 10-12; Tan bt Diya 11-6, 11-5, 11-4).

China bt Thailand 3-0 (Wang Manyu bt Orawan Paranang 11-3, 11-6, 11-6; Sun Yingsha bt Suthasini Sawettabut 11-7, 11-8, 13-11; Kuai Man bt Jinnipa Sawettabut 11-6, 11-11-7, 11-8).

Men: China bt Iran 3-1 (Lin Shidong lost to Benyamin Faraji 11-8, 10-12, 8-11, 11-4, 9-11; Liang Jigkun bt Noshad Alamiyan 8-11, 13-11, 11-8, 13-11; Wang Chuqin bt Amir Hossein Hodaei 11-8, 11-8, 11-4; Lin bt Noshad 11-8, 11-9, 11-3).

Taiwan bt DPR Korea 3-2 (Liao Cheng-Ting bt RI Jong Sik 11-3, 15-13, 12-10, Kuo Guan-Hong lost to Ham Yu Song 6-11, 11-7, 5-11, 11-9, 9-11; Lin Yen-Chung lost to Chon Jong Bom 4-11, 14-12, 8-11, 11-4, 16-18; Kuo Guan-Hong bt RI Jong Sik 11-7, 11-8, 12-10; Liao bt Ham 8-11, 11-5, 12-10, 3-11, 11-3).

Muthusamy shines but Noman strikes back

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

Senuran Muthusamy took three wickets in four deliveries on Monday to help South Africa dismiss Pakistan for 378 on the second day of the first Test here on Monday.

Noman Ali took four for 85 to peg back South Africa to 216 for six at stumps. Salman Ali Agha missed out on a century when he was the last wicket to fall for the home team.

The scores:
Pakistan 378 (Imam-ul-Haq 93, Shan Masood 76, Mohammad Rizwan 75, Salman Agha 93, Senuran Muthuswamy 6/117) vs. SA 216/6 in 67 overs (Ryan Rickelton 71, Tony de Zorzi 81 batting, Noman Ali 4/85).

Faroe Islands scores an upset win over Czechia

WC QUALIFYING

Associated Press
LONDON

Faroe Islands took a big step towards its first FIFA World Cup on Sunday with a 2-1 win against Czechia.

Netherlands continues to lead the way in Group G after a 4-0 win over Finland in Amsterdam. Memphis Depay scored from the penalty spot for a record-extending 54th goal for his country. Denmark and Scotland are neck and neck at the top of Group C. Group H leader Austria saw its 100% record ended by Romania.

The results: Group C: Scotland 2 (Adams 15, McTominay 84) bt Belarus 1 (Kuchko 90+6); Denmark 3 (Hojlund 21, Andersen 40, Damsgaard 41) bt Greece 1 (Tzolis 63). **G:** Netherlands 4 (Malen 8, Van Dijk 17, Depay 38-pen, Gakpo 84) bt Finland 0; Lithuania 0 lost to Poland 2 (Szymanski 15, Lewandowski 64). **H:** San Marino 0 lost to Cyprus 4 (Loizou 10, Andreou 59, Kastanos 67-pen, Kakoulli 79); Romania 1 (Ghita 90+5) bt Austria 0. **L:** Faroe Islands 2 (Sorensen 67, Agnarsson 81) bt Czechia 1 (Karabec 78); Croatia 3 (Fruk 30, Sucic 78, Erlic 90+6) bt Gibraltar 0.

Depay. AFP

India meets Singapore in a must-win game

FOOTBALL

Aashin Prasad
MARGAO (GOA)

With India's chances of qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 hanging by a thread, wins are the need of the hour, starting with a crucial home game against Singapore on Tuesday.

A late error from Singapore gifted a 10-man India an equaliser in the reverse fixture last week, placing it third in Group C with just two points from its three matches.

India head coach Khalid Jamil, who will be taking charge in his first home game, has surprisingly signalled an attacking intent -- a shift from his reactive football.

The Blue Tigers have struggled for goals from open play under his tenure with set-pieces being the key attacking threat, which Singapore nullified by shading the possession in the away game.

While Jamil might not veer too far away from his principles, he will hope his side can make better use of the ball in possession.

His late SOS call for central midfielder Lalengmawia Ralte could help unlock India's attackers.

Subhasish Bose is also expected to make the starting XI in a now-or-never game for Indian football.

Perception obliges in the main event

PUNE: Trainer Robin R. Kondakalla's Perception, ridden by P. Sai Kumar, won the Sikander-E-Azam Plate, the main event of Monday's (Oct. 13) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Rakesh Reddy Kondakalla.

1. NIZAMABAD PLATE (DIV. III) (1,200M): MEXICAN WAVE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Feel The Magic (B. Nikhil) 2, Photograph (G. Naresh) 3 and Star Cruise (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. Not run: Diligence. 1/2, 2 and 4. 1m, 14.99s. ₹15 (w), 10, 24 and 10 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 61, FP: 32, Q: 33, Tanala: 205. Favourite: Mexican Wave. Owners: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

2. NAWAB MEHDI JUNG BAHADUR MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II) (1,100M): SHADOW FAX (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Challenger (Md. Ekram) 2, Sweet Dancer (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Bold Beauty (Santosh Raj) 4. Short Head, 1-1/2 and Neck. 1m, 7.60s. ₹29 (w), 15, 54 and 10 (p). SHP: 87, THP: 51, FP: 401, Q: 211, Tanala: 2,055. Favourite: Great Giver. Owners: Mr. G. Krishnamohan Rao, Mr. T. Nataraja Mehta & Mr. Mirza Ayub Baig. Trainer: D. Netto.

3. NIZAMABAD PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): DONTBLOCKMYWAY (Sonu Kumar) 1, Hoping Star (Akshay K) 2, Peanut (Mukesh K) 3 and Most Beautiful (H.M. Akshay) 4. 8-1/2, 4 and 3-1/2. 1m, 13.00s. ₹42 (w), 14,12 and 14 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 30, FP: 74, Q: 20, Tanala: 171. Favourite: Hoping Star. Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

4. NIZAMABAD PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): TOOTSIE DARLING (Akshay Kumar) 1, Analysis (G. Naresh) 2, Aquatone (Mukesh K) 3 and Nkalanzinzi (B. Nikhil) 4. 7, 2 and 2-3/4. 1m, 14.20s. ₹19 (w), 14, 10 and 40 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 50, FP: 28, Q: 19, Tanala: 122. Favourite: Analysis. Owners: Mr. Suresh Chintamaneni. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

5. NAWAB MEHDI JUNG BAHADUR MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I) (1,100M): FEDERER (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Coming Home (Mukesh K) 2, Leather Back (Rafique Sk.) 3 and Divine Connection (Nakhat) 4. Not run: True Icon. 3-1/2, Nose and 2-1/2. 1m, 08.00s. ₹55 (w), 17, 14 and 11 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 51, FP: 202, Q: 78, Tanala: 449. Favourite: Coming Home. Owners: M/s. Shaik Asif, Thota V.N.S.S. Prasad, Rajendra Babu Manthena, Pamulapati Srinivasa Rao, Yerram Srinivasreddy & Sriram Uppaluri. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

6. SIKANDER-E-AZAM PLATE (1,600M): PERCEPTION (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Dapper Look (Md. Ekram) 2, Celestial (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Walking Thunder (Akshay K) 4. 2-1/2, 2-1/2 and 2. 1m, 39.00s. ₹24 (w), 12, 17 and 16 (p). SHP: 47, THP: 44, FP: 132, Q: 96, Tanala: 351. Favourite: Perception. Owner: Mr. Rakesh Reddy Kondakalla. Trainer: Robin R. Kondakalla.

7. GOODWOOD PLATE (1,600M): HOPING HIGH (Gaurav Singh) 1, Secret Option (Ashad Asbar) 2, Muaser (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and City Cruise (Nakhat) 4. 1/2, Dist and 2-1/2. 1m, 43.80s. ₹22 (w), 10, 10 and 26 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 29, FP: 70, Q: 27, Tanala: 189. Favourite: Secret Option. Owner: Mr. C.S. Kaushik. Trainer: Jasbir Singh.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹3,601 (98 tkts.) & 30%: 294 (514 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 190 (187 tkts.), (ii) 1,193 (66 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 137 (185 tkts.), (ii) 876 (41 tkts.).

Indians off to a winning start in World junior badminton championships

Nihit Sachdeva
GUWAHATI

Tankara Gnana Dattu Talasila's error-strewn opener in a 5-15, 15-7, 15-7 win was the only blip on an otherwise perfect day for India at the World junior badminton championships.

Up against Milan Mesterhazy, a left-handed Hungarian, a nervous Gnana Dattu kept going for rally-ending jump-smashes, only to find the net on multiple occasions.

Once he calmed down, his rival was hardly a match for him. A delicate crosscourt winner from the Indian at the net at 11-5 in the second game had Mesterhazy and the sparse crowd at the National Centre of Excellence applauding him.

Gnana Dattu, who led 8-3 at the mid-game interval in the decider, duly converted his third match point with a smash down the line.

Bouncing back: Gnana Dattu rallied to down his Hungarian opponent Mesterhazy. RITU RAJ KONWAR

The BWF is testing a best-of-three games format with each game played to 15 points at this event as part of its broader testing and analysis programme.

The first round, perhaps due to a lot of lop-sided match-ups, witnessed multiple clashes which did not last even 15 minutes. H. Lalthazuala and Vennala Kalagotla, the other Indians in action in singles on Monday, featured in two of those fixtures with 15-4, 15-4 win over Ugandan Denis Mukasa and 15-1, 15-6 win over Ireland's Siofra Flynn, respectively.

Three Indian pairs in mixed doubles registered straight-game wins, ensuring the full quota of host nation's entries, including the ones who received byes, will be in action in the second round on a packed Tuesday.

The results (first round, Indians only): Boys' singles: H. Lalthazuala bt Denis Mukasa (Uga) 15-4, 15-4; Tankara Gnana Dattu Talasila bt Milan Mesterhazy (Hun) 5-15, 15-7, 15-7. **Girls' singles:** Vennala Kalagotla bt Siofra Flynn (Irl) 15-1, 15-6. **Mixed doubles:** C. Lalramsanga & Taarini Suri bt Senan O'Rourke & Michelle Shochan (Irl) 15-13, 15-9; Vishnu Kedhar Kode & Keerthy Manchala bt Obapomba Adu-Mintah & Moslena Ama Korama Adu (Gha) 15-7, 15-8; Vansh Dev & Dianka Waldia bt Anish Nair & Mia Fox (Eng) 15-6, 15-11.

Deepika betters own mark; Nischay smashes meet record

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Deepika bettered her own meet record to defend her women's under-20 javelin title with an effort of 54.16m in the National junior athletics championships here on Monday.

Nischay smashed the men's under-18 discus meet record with a throw of 63.69m, which was more than the Worlds under-20 qualifying standard of 56m. Aarti Siwach (under-18, 200m, 24.25), Neeru Pathak (under-20, 200m, 24.05) and Pratik Maharana (under-20, 200m, 21.24) also performed better than the World under-20 qualifying marks (24.35 for women and 21.25 for men). Neeru and Pratik broke their respective meet records.

Nischay. AFI MEDIA

The results: Finals (winners only): U-20: Men: 200m: Pratik Maharana (Odi) 21.24 (NMR, Old 21.26, Veeresh Mathur, 2023); **800m:** Mogali Venkatram (AP) 1:49.99; **3000m:** Mohit Choudhary (Tel) 8:13.63; **400m hurdles:** Vishnu (TN) 51.74; **Triple jump:** Yuvaraj K. (TN) 15.61m; **Shot put:** Sai Kiran A. (Tel) 18.42m; **Women: 200m:** Neeru Pathak (UP) 24.05 (NMR, Old 24.14, Sakshi Chavan, 2024); **800m:** Vaishnavi Rawal (Kar) 2:07.84; **400m hurdles:** Muskan (Har) 1:01.75; **High jump:** Reet Rathor (UP) 1.72m; **Shot put:** Tamanna (Har) 15.08m; **Javelin:** Deepika (Har) 54.16m (NMR, 52.45m, 2024, Deepika); **Heptathlon:** Sriteja Tholem (Tel) 4654; **Mixed relay:** Uttar Pradesh 3:28.82; **U-18: Men: 200m:** Chiranth P. (Kar) 21.81; **Discus:** Nischay (Har) 63.69m (NMR, Old 60.17m, Atul, 2022); **5000m race walk:** Tushar Panwar (Utk) 20:11.35; **Heptathlon:** Rahul Jakhar (Guj) 5067 (NR, Old 4942, Royshan, 2024); **Women: 200m:** Aarti Siwach (Har) 24.25; **3000m race walk:** Ranjana Yadav (MP) 13:41.55; **Heptathlon:** Seema (Har) 4725; **U-16: Boys: Pentathlon:** Imran Alam (Bih) 3911; **Girls:** Anamika Ajesh (Ker) 4096 (NR, Old 3884, S. Sakthivel, 2024).

On Sunday: U-20: Men: 4x100m relay: Karnataka 41.71; **Women: 4x100m relay:** Maharashtra 47.72; **U-18: Men: 1000m medley relay:** Tamil Nadu 1:54.85; **Girls: 1000m medley relay:** Tamil Nadu 2:11.58; **Long jump:** Sadhana Ravi (TN) 5.94m; **U-16: Boys: 1000m medley relay:** Uttar Pradesh 1:58.38; **Girls: 1000m medley relay:** Maharashtra 2:17.36.

Joshna.

Joshna ends 10-year title drought

Sports Bureau

Joshna Chinappa won her 11th PSA title at the $15,000 Japan Open in Yokohama on Monday, with a 11-5, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8 victory over Egypt's Haya Ali.

Earlier, the 39-year-old, beat Egyptian fourth seed Rana Ismail 11-7, 11-1, 11-5 in the semifinals. Joshna had last won a title in 2015 when she came up trumps at the Victorian Open in Melbourne.

Rohit-Kohli duo's WC dreams depend on form, fitness: Shastri

The former India coach feels both stalwarts need a strong show against Australia in the upcoming series to boost their hopes and adds the Men in Blue possess a wealth of young talent

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
SYDNEY

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri feels that Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's hopes of playing the 2027 ODI World Cup hinge on "form, fitness and hunger" with the upcoming series against Australia being an important test of all three aspects.

Shastri, who coached India from 2017 to 2021, said both stalwarts need a strong series against Australia to boost their hopes. Rohit and Kohli have been named in India's squad for the three-match ODI series against Australia, starting in Perth on Sunday.

"That's why they're here (playing the ODI series against Australia)," Shastri was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au at Kayo Sport's Summer of Cricket launch here.

"They're part of the mix. It depends on their fitness, their hunger and, of course, form. So, I think this series is very important to see how they go. They themselves will know by the end of it how they feel and then it's their call," he said.

Currently, ODI cricket is the only international format the duo plays and it remains to be seen whether Rohit and Kohli fit into India's long-term plans, with the 50-over World Cup still two years away. By then, Rohit will be 40 and Kohli 38.

Intense scrutiny: It remains to be seen whether Kohli and Rohit fit into India's long-term plans, despite playing key roles in the Champions Trophy triumph. FILE PHOTO

> I think this series is very important to see how they go. They themselves will know by the end of it how they feel and then it's their call
> – SHASTRI

Rohit was recently replaced by Shubman Gill as India's ODI captain.

Rohit and Kohli were last seen representing India during its victorious Champions Trophy campaign in February-March.

While Rohit was named Player-of-the-Match in the final, Kohli featured among the top five batters, playing vital role in India's wins over Pakistan and Australia.

"(It's) the same thing with Steve Smith, who retired from ODIs in March, from Australia's point of view. At that age, you've got to enjoy it, and you still have to have the hunger.

"But there's no substitute for experience when it comes to the big games, as we saw in the Champions Trophy. Come the big games, and the big boys step up," Shastri said.

The former India all-rounder feels the Men in Blue perform better in white-ball cricket than in the red-ball format.

"India is much stronger in white ball than the red ball. Rohit, Kohli... they know that these youngsters are pushing them." Shastri spoke about the wealth of young talent India possesses in limited-overs cricket highlighting Tilak Varma's innings in the recent Asia Cup final.

"(Tilak's) innings in that Asia Cup final was absolutely fantastic," Shastri said.

"Because under pressure to play like that (was impressive). There's some good young guns there in (Yashasvi) Jaiswal, there's Gill, there's Tilak.

"A lot of good young talent and lot of all-rounders as well in Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube and Axar Patel, so it's a strong white-ball unit," he added.

Perfect timing to be playing against India, feels Marsh

Press Trust of India
SYDNEY

Taking on world No. 1 India is the perfect lead up to the marquee Ashes series later this year, believes T20 skipper Mitchell Marsh.

Australia will host India for three ODIs starting October 19, followed by a five-match T20I series, with Marsh leading the side in the absence of regular 50-overs skipper Pat Cummins, who continues to recover from a back injury.

"We'll have all the guys building towards the Ashes but everyone loves playing against India," Marsh was quoted as saying by *foxsports.com.au*.

Great rivalry

"We've got a great rivalry and great respect for them as a team. I think it's literally perfect timing to be playing against India in the lead-up to an Ashes series. It's going to be massive," he added.

The ODI series will also mark the international return of stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, both of whom last featured for India in February.

Cummins remains a doubtful for the Ashes opener at Perth starting on November 21 but Marsh is among the players who would be in fray for selection for the opening Test of the five-match series.

The second and third ODIs of India's tour of Australia will be played on October 23 and 25 at Adelaide and Sydney, respectively.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Vrinda's unbeaten ton highlights Karnataka's win over Haryana

An unbeaten century from Vrinda Dinesh (118 n.o.) powered Karnataka to its fourth consecutive win as it beat Haryana by 64 runs in the senior Women's T20 Trophy in Gwalior.

The scores: Karnataka 187/3 in 20 overs (Vrinda Dinesh 118 n.o., Niki Prasad 34) bt Haryana 123/8 in 20 overs (Deeya Yadav 60, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 3/23, Sahana S. Pawar 3/26).

Manikanth hits century as Karnataka thumps Tripura

Manikanth Shivanand scored 143 as Karnataka registered a thumping 206-run victory over Tripura in a Vinoo Mankad (U-19) Trophy match in Dehradun.

The scores: Karnataka 307/6 in 50 overs (L. Nitish Arya 41, Manikanth Shivanand 143, Anvay Dravid 26, Rehan Mohammed 55) bt Tripura 101 in 25.1 overs (C. Vaibhav 3/22, Akshath Prabhakar 4/16).

Kaashvi finishes runner-up in Jaipur AITA tournament

Karnataka's Kaashvi Venkat Konanki lost 0-6, 2-6 to top seed Priyansi Chatterjee of West Bengal to finish runner-up in the AITA U-12 National Series tennis tournament in Jaipur. It was Kaashvi's third successive final in the season after she had won two Super Series tournaments.

State-ranking billiards and snooker tournament from Nov. 3

Karnataka State Billiards Association will host the State-ranking billiards and snooker tournament in the senior, junior and sub-junior categories at its premises from Nov. 3. Entries close on Oct. 24. Call: 080-4322322.

Delightful double for Kyra Raina

Kyra Raina won both the women's singles and doubles titles at the YONEX Sunrise All-India sub-junior (U-13) ranking badminton tournament held at the KBA courts in Bengaluru recently.

The results (finals): Singles: Boys: Kaavish Yadav bt Jashwanth Mahamkali 15-21, 21-18, 21-16; **girls:** Kyra Raina bt Akshara Shrinidhi 21-15, 17-21, 21-15.

Doubles: Boys: Pratham Vishal Raut & Vivaan bt Shivansh Pabbu & Karthikeya Mahaarshi Talari 21-11, 15-21, 21-10; **girls:** Anya Proddatur & Kyra Raina bt P.N. Shaanvi & Shambhavi Sharma 21-14, 21-14.

Jain Heritage School reigns supreme

A 43-run first-innings lead proved decisive as Jain Heritage School overcame Holy Saint English School to lift the K.M. Ramprasad Shield U-16 first-division tournament.

The scores (final): Jain Heritage School 168 in 55.2 overs (Arnav Anil 87, P. Jayanth Abhiram 6/48) & 165 in 62 overs (J.N. Daksh 78, P. Jayanth Abhiram 4/40) drew with Holy Saint English School 125 in 45.5 overs (Brahmanya Theertha R. Kuber 68, S. Vidhat 5/27, Aaryansinh Chavda 4/37) & 68/2 in 12 overs (Brahmanya Theertha R. Kuber 52 n.o.).

Kodagu FC routs MFAR Students Union FC

Kodagu FC blanked MFAR Students Union FC 6-0 in the KSFA Super Division League Championship here on Monday.

The results: Kodagu FC 6 (Shashank Rana 34, 90+4, Aditya Pratap Rathore 39, B.S. Mrinal Muthanna 41, Lalkrawsmawia 79, Tagru James 85) bt MFAR Students Union FC 0. South United FC 4 (Tharun Kumar 21, M. Daniyal 23, 28, Talib Nazir 51) bt Bharat Bengaluru 1 (Mangkhost Haokip 45). MEG & Centre FC 4 (Ningthoujam Leisemba Metei 17, M. Sarath Narayanan 37, 48, Siddhant Pranay 72) bt HAL FC 2 (Arun Kumar Sharma 25, Suraj WangKhem 85).

Champions all: The winners at the YONEX Sunrise All-India sub-junior (U-13) ranking badminton tournament. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(IMA & OTHER KPIDFE SCAM CASES)
3rd & 4th Floor, Podium Block, Visveswaraiah Towers,
Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001. Phone No: 080 - 29565353, 29604556
E-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com

No: SPLOCA/ADM/PROC-03/13/2025-26 Date: 10-10-2025

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Inviting Tender (EOI) from Reputed firms to conduct Forensic Audit related to Various Scam Cases related to the Office of the SPLOCA and Other Competent Authorities.

The SPECIAL OFFICER & COMPETENT AUTHORITY IMA & OTHER KPIDFE SCAM CASES (hereafter, SPLOCA) hereby invites tenders under e-Tendering System from interested firms to conduct Forensic Audit with regard to the companies against which action has been initiated under KPID Act, on a regular basis as and when sought by the Competent Authorities with the required criteria mentioned below.

Sl.No.	Qualification / Requirements	Experience
1	**Registered CA firms who have expertise** ❖ In the field of Financial Analysis and Forensic Audit of related Companies / Banks / Co-Operatives. ❖ Identifying Fund Trail, Tracking of banking transactions. ❖ Conducting Audit. ❖ Collection of payer beneficiary details for bank transactions and identifying assets created out of the same. ❖ Collecting information from various Government agencies such as RBI, SEBI, ED, CBI, IT etc., ❖ Tracking fund transfers, analyzing cash transactions. ❖ Creating & validating database. ❖ Analyzing and vetting of claims. ❖ Providing expert evidence in legal fora on payment of 1% of contract per appearance.	Minimum - 5 Years Preferred - 10 Years

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

1) Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home on 14-10-2025. 2)** Last Date for Queries **on or before 21-10-2025 till 5.00 PM. 3)** Date and Time of Pre Bid Meeting **on 21-10-2025 at 12.00 Noon. 4)** Last Date for Submission of EoI in e-Procurement Platform **on 28-10-2025 till 5.00 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of EoI **on 29-10-2025 at 12.00 Noon.**

For any query contact: **Office of the SPLOCA, IMA and OTHER KPIDFE SCAM CASES, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswaraiah Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001.** E-mail: **splocaima21@gmail.com, Phone No: 080-29565353.**
Details regarding Tender, terms and conditions are available at e-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home.**

Sd/-
The Special Officer & Competent Authority
(IMA and Other KPIDFE Scam Cases),
Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3227/Adverto/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ–577501
ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ವಸತಿ ಪಾಠಶಾಲೆ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಎದುರು, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ.
ಫೋನ್ ನಂಬರ್ : 08194–295954 e-mail : ddswdcta@gmail.com
ಸಂ: ಉನಿ/ಸಕಇ/ಚಿದು/ಆಹಾರಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–01/2025–26 ದಿ:–13–10–2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಡಾ.ಬಿ.ಆರ್.ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪೂರ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಗೋನೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿರಾಶ್ರಿತರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ನಿರಾಶ್ರಿತರಿಗೆ ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
1) Tender Number: SWD/2025-26/IND0346 Date: 03-10-2025
2) Tender Number: SWD/2025-26/IND0345 Date: 29-09-2025

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/416/2025-26
ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ

Zilla Panchayat, Chitradurga
Ph:- 9480861004/9481343612 E-mail:www.kpp.karnataka.gov.in
ಸಂ.ಜಿಪಂಚಿ/ಅಭಿಕಾ/NRLM/CR--31/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.10.2025

Tender Notification

E-TENDER FOR ENGAGING MANPOWER AGENCY UNDER NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION
(1) TENDER REFERENCE NO & DATE ಸಂ.ಜಿಪಂಚಿ/ಅಭಿಕಾ/NRLM/CR--31/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.10.2025 RDPR/2025-26/SE2501/CALL-2 **(2)** APPROXIMATE VALUE OF TENDER Rs. 150.00 Lakhs **(3)** EMD AMOUNT Rs. 2.25 lakhs **(4)** TENDER COMMENCEMENT DATE 10.10.2025 **(5)** LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS 10-11-2025 5:30 pm **(6)** TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF TECHNICAL BIDS 12-11-2025.11.00 AM **(7)** TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF FINANCIAL BIDS 14-11-2025 11.00AM **(8)** Contract Period TWO years **(9)** PLACE OF OPENING OF TENDERS Zilla Panchayath. Chitradurga

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/411/2025-26
Sd/- Project Director,
Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

KARNATAKA STATE BEVERAGES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
4th Floor, TTMC 'A' Block, BMTC Building, K.H. Road,
Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027, Ph: 080-22483636/38/39
No. HR-12027/1/2022-Human Resources-KSBCL Dated:10.10.2025

e- TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement portal only)

Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Ltd. (KSBCL) in association with e-procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka is inviting online e-Tenders under Two cover System for providing Group Medical Insurance to its Employees for one year from reputed general insurers, licensed by IRDA to operate General Insurance Business in India and who have completed at least 3 years in the Insurance business are eligible to participate in the tender.
The interested Insurance companies may participate by due registration in Karnataka Procurement Portal (KPPP) of the Government of Karnataka.
The calendar of events is as follows:
1) Tender No.: **KSBCL/2025-26/SE0031 dtd:09.10.2025 2)** Pre-bid Meeting: **15.10.2025 at 11.00 a.m. 2)** Last date and time for submission of Bid: **24.10.2025 up to 5.30 p.m. 3)** Opening of Technical Bid: **27.10.2025 from 10.30 AM onwards 4)** Opening of Financial Bid: **29.10.2025 at 11.00AM onwards.** For more details, visit the web site **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Director
(Admin & Infra)
DIPR/CP/JA/3205/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR
No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-1,2,3,4/4702/TND/2025-26/2430 Date: 13.10.2025

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders from Eligible Contractor through "E-Procurement" on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.
4702-SCP Works:- Total 23 Works/Package Works, Estimated Cost **Rs.266.40 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months including monsoon.**
4702-TSP Works:- Total 19 Works/Package Works, Estimated Cost **Rs.184.63 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above works are One(1) to Three(3) Months including monsoon.**
4702-Major Works:- Total 5 Survey Works, Estimated Cost **Rs.8.67 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above works are One(1) Month including monsoon.**
Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka Public Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **14.10.2025.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in KPP portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **24.10.2025.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or KPPP helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **23.10.2025.** Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI & GWDD Division,
Vijayapur
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/392/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
ISRO TELEMETRY TRACKING AND COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC),
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP (CMG)
Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058.

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, sealed item rate e-tenders are invited online from contractors of appropriate class for the following work in NIT by Group Head, ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-560 058 (Phone No. 080-28094541, 28094186).

Name of work	Augmentation and replacement of existing 630A DG distribution panels with new 1250A distribution panels at ILF, ISTRAC, Lucknow	Replacement of existing 100kVA Modular UPS system with new modular UPS at SCC and MOX Campus, ISTRAC, Peenya, Bengaluru
E-tenders Notice	ISTRAC/CMG/E/CON/E-Tender-69/2025-2026 Dated: 13.10.2025	ISTRAC/CMG/E/CON/E-Tender-72/2025-2026 Dated:13.10.2025
Estimated Cost put to tender	Rs. 111.51 Lakhs	Rs. 96.35 Lakhs
Tender document details	E-Tenders	E-Tenders
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	Five (05) Months	Four (04) Months
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 16.00 hrs. on 14.10.2025 to 05.11.2025 till 16.00 hrs.	
Bid clarification	From 11.00 hrs. on 15.10.2025 to 06.11.2025 till 16.00 hrs	
Last date and time of reply to bid clarification	07.11.2025 up to 16.00 hrs	
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	08.11.2025 up to 16.00 hrs	
Due date and time of opening of tenders	09.11.2025 after 11.00 hrs	
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 2,23,020.00	Rs. 1,92,700.00

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details from website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender document from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

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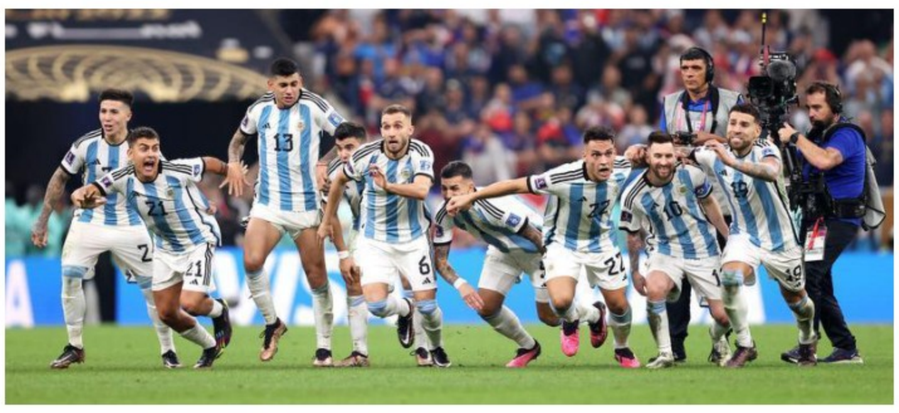
Messi's Argentina to clash with Australia in Kochi on Nov. 17

Anto, the managing director of Reporter Broadcasting Company, dismisses the rumours that the global superstar might not play or that the friendly could be held in another country; he adds the ticket sales will begin on Saturday

FOOTBALL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE



They are coming! Anto confirmed that the 'World Cup-winning squad of Argentina' will be playing in Kochi. FILE PHOTO

It is not just the Argentina-Australia football friendly that India may get to host next month. There could be another international friendly at Kochi featuring Australia, too.

Anto Augustine, the managing director of Reporter Broadcasting Company (the sponsor of the friendly), told *The Hindu* that Australia playing another match was very much a possibility.

"We could confirm it only after a few days, but efforts are on to get a strong team for Australia to play against," he said over the phone.

"Iran is one of the teams we are looking at."

Anto also confirmed that Argentina would take on Australia on November 17 (Monday). "Argentina will reach Kochi on November 15, while the Australians will land on November 10. The Australian team will also be accompanied by a delegation of the Australian government."

Anto said the match would be televised to a global audience. "We are finalising the television rights and a prominent Indian sports channel will broadcast the match," he said.

"We are starting a roadshow on October 17; it will begin at Kozhikode and will cover all 14 districts of Kerala. There will be a music show by A.R. Rahman, too."

Anto dismissed the rumours that Messi might not play or that the match could be played in another country. "I have seen the report that the Argentina match would be played in Africa, and not in India," he said. "And of course, Messi would be playing. It is the World Cup-winning squad of Argentina that is coming to India."

The ticket sales would start on October 18 (Saturday), Anto added.

Dercksen soaking up the World Cup experience

Anirudh Velamuri
VISAKHAPATNAM

Dercksen. GETTY IMAGES

South Africa all-rounder Annerie Dercksen came into the Women's ODI World Cup as one of the brightest youngsters in the game.

Having been a regular in ODI cricket in the months leading up to the tournament, her exclusion from the playing 11 in the first three games raised eyebrows.

The 24-year-old was finally brought into the fold against Bangladesh, where she couldn't shake off the rust and fell cheaply.

Dercksen, however, remains unbothered about the lack of playing time. Instead, she is just eager to get her hands on the trophy. "For me, the main goal is to win the World Cup," she told *The Hindu*.

Dercksen is also enjoying life in India and was mighty impressed with the atmosphere here at the ACA-VDCA Stadium during South Africa's win over India. "The fans here have been absolutely amazing. The last 10 overs when Richa Ghosh was scoring against us, it was incredibly loud. The stadium wasn't even half full, and I couldn't hear the person sitting next to me," she remarked. "This has been an incredible experience. I don't know if there are better fans anywhere in the world. It's been absolutely amazing. People are cool. It's been like the best experience I've probably had around the world."

While excited about representing her country, Dercksen is also well aware of her responsibilities.

"It's a dream come true. I always wanted to represent my country. I just thought it might be in netball. When you're away from home, you don't realise the influence you have on children back home. Our ultimate goal is to inspire young girls or even young boys to take up cricket and start playing the sport that we all love," she said.

"The men won the Test mace recently and look at the influence it had on the whole country. We know that we've got a big responsibility and we're trying our best to make the country proud. I think sometimes you don't realise that 60 million people are looking at you and rooting for you".

Never alone: Illing acknowledged the supportive and caring attitude of her teammates. AP

From overcoming injury to 'unexpected' contract — the rise of Kiwi pacer Illing

ODI WORLD CUP

Rajdeep Saha
GUWAHATI

In 2022, Breearne Illing came to Mumbai as part of the New Zealand Women's Development Tour. Now, in 2025, she's playing in her first World Cup, capping off a 'whirlwind' year which also saw her receive maiden ODI and T20I caps, and an "unexpected" central contract – all within seven months.

"To get offered a contract, which I wasn't actually expecting at all, was just amazing – I couldn't have thought of anything better," Illing told *The Hindu*.

In the ongoing ODI World Cup, Illing has already snaffled a couple of wickets against Australia - including its skipper Alyssa Healy - after three scalps against India-A and India in the warm-up matches.

"My teammates are just so supportive and caring. Many of them were constantly checking in on me against Australia, making sure I was all right, if I was calm, feeling happy, or nervous. Leah [Tahuhu] has been amazing. She and Sophie [Devine] were on the drives, and they talked to me about every ball, just encouraging me to keep going," the 22-year-old left-arm pacer said.

"The angle across the batter (and the ball) coming back in and just the fact that I'm a left-arm (pacer), it's a different release point that the batters are probably not used to."

When she was 13, Illing suffered a potential stress fracture to her back. She slowly returned to her run up, thanks to Martyn Sigley, a player-turned physio.

Illing was then forced to pull out of the 2023 under-19 Women's World Cup after sustaining a back strain during the tour of India a year prior.

Studious and curious

New Zealand made the semifinals of the inaugural u-19 world event, but Illing had academics to keep her curious mind busy.

She graduated earlier this year from the University of Auckland with a Bachelor's in Science, majoring in Exercise and Biology.

"In exercise science, just learning a lot about the biomechanics and how the body works is what I applied in cricket and while looking at footage during training." She is now curiously exploring the nuances of forensic science.

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